

Canadian, U.S. cops victimize socialist at border

BY HARRY RING

Mac Warren, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party and veteran Black rights activist, was the target of a racist and political victimization by Canadian immigration officials acting in complicity with their U.S. counterparts.

On September 19 Warren was illegally denied entry into Canada, held in custody for more than seven hours, and denied his rights while being held.

To cap off the abusive treatment, he was subjected to a strip search worthy of the South African police.

The outrageous incident occurred at a time when the Canadian government and media are whipping up a racist campaign directed against nonwhite immigrants. Major curbs have been imposed on political refugees, and the Canadian Parliament is weighing enactment of a virulent anti-immigrant law.

A central leader of the Socialist Workers Party, Warren is currently based in Des Moines, Iowa.

He was denied entry into Canada and subjected to detention even though there was not a shred of evidence suggesting anything improper about his planned visit to Montreal.

Large numbers of U.S. visitors pass through Canadian airport customs with a minimal check. ID is presented, a few routine questions answered, and the visitor is waved through.

Not so with Warren. When he presented his driver's license as ID, the clerk glanced



Militant/Holbrook Mahn

Mac Warren

at it, looked at him, and told him to step aside.

The only thing that distinguished Warren from the others going through was the fact that he is Black.

He was taken first to an office, then to a detention cell. He was questioned about the purpose of his visit. His bags were searched. They contained nothing that could be considered contraband. At that point there was absolutely no reason to detain him further.

Yet the situation escalated. What began as an act of racist discrimination became an exercise in political witchhunting.

A customs agent scrutinized the various

Continued on Page 8

U.S. fires on Iran ship, threatens new attacks

The September 21 sneak attack by a U.S. military helicopter on an Iranian ship, resulting in the killing of several Iranians and the seizure of 26 others, deserves sharp condemnation by all working people.

Washington's determination to continue escalating military attacks on Iran was signaled the next day when a U.S. warship

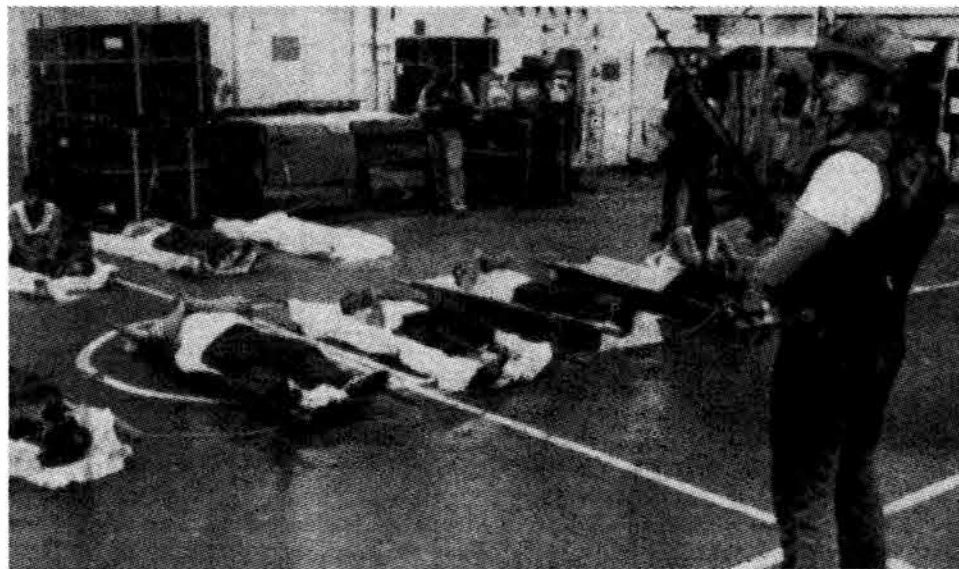
EDITORIAL

fired on an Iranian aircraft.

With the help of European allies, the Pentagon has built up a massive naval and air armada in the Persian Gulf — the largest such mobilization since the Korean War in the early 1950s. A central goal of the operation has been to provoke situations in which U.S. warships and planes could strike at Iranian ships, planes, or territory.

The attack on the Iranian ship was planned well in advance and completely unprovoked. "We trailed the Iranian ship for days until just the right moment," boasted a Pentagon official.

In the dead of night and without warning, a U.S. military helicopter opened fire on the Iranian ship. Five seamen were killed, according to Iranian radio broadcasts. U.S. officials said three were killed.



Iranian seamen, bound and under armed guard, are held on U.S. warship after unprovoked U.S. attack on Iranian ship.

U.S. forces then boarded and hijacked the ship and seized 26 survivors.

U.S. officials claimed that the Iranians were not prisoners, but a front-page *New York Times* photograph showed them lying on their backs, their hands and feet bound, under armed guard.

U.S. officials portrayed the attack as "defensive." This is an outrageous lie.

Washington has sent a massive military force halfway around the world to the Persian Gulf to intervene in the war between Iran and Iraq, threatened "preemptive strikes" against Iran, attacked its shipping, and killed Iranian citizens — and calls all this "self-defense."

The attack is a grotesque and arrogant

Continued on Page 14

Nicaragua lifts wartime censorship

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The Nicaraguan government has announced four major new steps in its campaign to implement the Guatemala accords and press for an end to the U.S.-organized contra war.

On September 19 the government authorized the right-wing daily *La Prensa* to resume publication. Before it was closed by the government in June 1986, *La Prensa* functioned as a voice of Washington and the contra mercenaries, and was financed by the CIA. Its coverage, often based on false or misleading stories, aimed at undermining confidence in the Nicaraguan government, the defense effort, and the economy.

A joint communiqué issued by the government and the owners of *La Prensa* stated that the paper would not be censored and would have no restrictions "other than those imposed by responsible journalism."

Violeta Chamorro, owner of *La Prensa*, told reporters that the government's decision "caught me by surprise," and that the paper would start printing by October 1. "We have freedom of the press for our newspaper," she admitted.

On September 22 Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announced that the government had authorized Radio Católica to reopen. Voice of the Catholic church hierarchy here, the station was closed by the government in January 1986 for repeatedly violating the law: disobeying government media regulations and inciting draft evasion.

That same day, Minister of the Interior Tomás Borge announced that the government had lifted censorship from all the nation's news media. Censorship had been in effect since 1982 as part of the emergency laws implemented in response to the escalating contra war.

While the emergency laws remain in effect, the government "has decided not to apply the powers that the law gives us to impose censorship," Borge said. He called

on the media to work responsibly, and to make sure, "each media respects the desire of the revolution, the people, and the international community not to destabilize this peace process and not to provoke the political or economic destabilization of Nicaragua."

Ortega also announced that Nicaragua

would unilaterally "initiate actions to achieve an effective cease-fire" with the mercenary forces.

As a first step, the government will decree cease-fires in some areas of the country. All Nicaraguan troops in such areas will be withdrawn to specified concentrations.

Continued on Page 10

Maine strikers fight takebacks pressed by International Paper

BY SUSAN LaMONT

JAY, Maine — This small New England town in southwestern Maine is at the center of an important labor battle.

Since June 16, 1150 members of Local 14 of the United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU), alongside 100 members of Local 246 of the Firemen and Oilers, have been on strike here against International Paper.

The Jay strikers are united with paperworkers at three other IP mills — in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania; De Pere, Wisconsin; and Mobile, Alabama — in a fight to hold the line against IP's latest effort to squeeze more concessions from the workers.

This corporate giant is the largest paper company in the United States. It owns vast timberlands throughout the country and operates dozens of mills and plants in the United States, Europe, Latin America, and Asia. Along with the rest of the paper industry, it is enjoying record profits. In 1986 alone it netted \$305 million, more than double the year before.

To maintain and increase these profits, IP wants to lower wages and cut the number of workers in the mills while speeding up production, reducing benefits, and generally weakening union strength on the job.

The Jay strikers are leading the fight against these concessions.

Pulp and paper making is the biggest industry in Maine, with the related lumber

and wood-products industry running a close second.

Maine has just what the paper industry needs: millions of acres of timberland and abundant rivers, which provide the huge quantities of water that are used throughout the papermaking process.

Maine is dotted with small towns like Jay that grew up around the paper mills. IP, Scott Paper, Boise Cascade, Great Northern, Champion, and Georgia Pacific all have operations here. Jobs in the paper mills are about the best, and sometimes only, jobs to be had in many areas, and people will come from many miles around to work in the mills. Many come from second and third generation mill families.

The Jay mill — which sits on the banks of the Androscoggin River and bears its name — opened in 1965 and is still relatively modern. It's an "integrated" mill, which means that it has its own pulp mill, as well as five gigantic paper machines, which together can turn out 1,300 tons of printing and writing paper per day.

This is the first time there has been a strike at the Jay mill. But the thinking of union members here has been deeply affected in recent years by several other important strikes that have taken place in Maine.

The first was the 1985 strike by 3,200 union members at the Bath Iron Works

Continued on Page 11

Ford pact: setback for auto workers

Company will deepen push for work-rule changes and job combinations

BY JEFF POWERS

DETROIT — A summary of the proposed three-year contract reached by officials of the United Auto Workers and the Ford Motor Co. on September 17 is being distributed to union members around the country.

The results of the vote on the pact by Ford workers will be announced September 30.

The UAW leadership claims the new agreement will provide a "milestone advance in job security." In reality, this con-

tract does little to protect workers' jobs. On the contrary, it includes specific provisions that will allow Ford management to reduce the work force. And it trades its "job trust" provisions for the wages and working conditions of the vast majority of current and future auto workers.

Mandatory overtime

Under the proposed contract, Ford will face greater penalties for forcing UAW members to work mandatory overtime. The company now schedules auto workers for an average of 3 million hours of overtime a month. They do this despite a current penalty of 50 cents an hour. The new contract will increase the penalty to \$1.25 an hour. The money goes into a union job retraining fund.

Outsourcing

UAW officials claim the contract will lead to a reduction of parts being made at plants not covered by the union contract. The new agreement provides for the establishment of a joint union-management committee to decide what products will be made in non-Ford plants. A particularly dangerous aspect of this proposal is a "broader definition of outsourcing" that will now include Ford plants in Canada.

Canadian auto workers left the UAW in 1986 and established their own union. Ford and the other auto giants try to pit U.S. auto workers against their Canadian brothers and sisters. The proposal to classify Canadian plants as non-UAW plays into Ford's hand as the company tries to extend divisions among the workers.

In exchange for the so-called job security provisions, the UAW officials have agreed to encourage local unions to negotiate in-plant agreements that reduce job classifications and change work rules.

See editorial on page 14

Loopholes galore

At the center of the proposal is a program called Guaranteed Employment Numbers (GEN). Each Ford worker with one or more years seniority will now be covered by GEN. But GEN is little more than a glorified version of the the jobs bank program negotiated in the 1984 contracts with Ford and General Motors.

The recent layoffs of thousands of GM workers shows that job bank programs do not prevent a company from reducing its work force when it decides to do so.

For starters, GEN does not cover workers who are laid off because of "volume reductions linked to market conditions." This means that when car sales tumble, Ford can lay off workers just as it has done in the past. And if car sales fail to pick up, Ford will not be required to recall one laid-off worker.

The number of workers covered by GEN can also be reduced in other ways. For every two "normal" attritions, only one GEN slot will be replaced. Normal attritions include workers who retire, quit, or die. This allows Ford to reduce the work force over time.

Once a worker gets into GEN, he or she may be used to train another worker or may be given a "nontraditional" job outside the bargaining unit. If workers refuse new assignments, they will be subject to layoff.

GEN workers will also be subject to transfers to Ford plants in other locations. If workers refuse transfers, they will be laid off.

Ford agreed to put \$500 million in GEN over a three-year period. While this may seem like a substantial amount of money, it will cover a maximum of 4,200 workers per year. Once the three years are over,



Assembly line at Ford plant in Chicago

This gives Ford a handle to eliminate jobs and speed up the line.

The contract includes a 3 percent raise the first year and lump-sum payments in place of wage raises the second and third year. This means from 1984 until 1990 Ford workers will have received only one annual pay hike totaling 3 percent. During this time, Ford will have raked in high profits — \$3.3 billion in 1986 alone.

Militant correspondent Mike Hills, who works at Ford's River Rouge plant here, said many auto workers are angry about being kept in the dark during negotiations.

"The leadership is not telling us anything," one worker told Hills.

Others, Hills said, are worried about the long-term effects of the contract. They are especially worried about speed-up. "The contract opens the door to give management a free hand on the shop floor," a worker said.

Hills also reports there wasn't a great deal of enthusiasm for the job-security provisions of the contract. "Our jobs are protected because we have seniority," one of Hills' coworkers emphasized. "But what about the new people? Will they be able to get jobs?"

Chrysler strike settled in Canada

BY ROBERT SIMMS

TORONTO, Canada — On September 17, three days after 10,000 Chrysler workers walked off the job, a tentative settlement was reached between the Canadian Auto Workers and Chrysler.

The main issue in the strike was the indexing of pensions to protect them from inflation. Chrysler yielded on several, though not all, of the union's demands.

"Indexing of workers' pensions is now on the collective bargaining agenda in this country, as well as the political agenda," Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) President Robert White said in announcing the settlement.

The agreement was approved by 96 percent of those who voted at the September

19 and 20 ratification meetings. Under the contract, workers who retire next month will have their pensions automatically adjusted to match 90 percent of the increases in the Consumer Price Index.

The contract, however, allows Chrysler to put a 6 percent annual cap on inflation protection of pensions. In addition, the union did not win indexing for the 4,000 current Chrysler pensioners and surviving spouses. But these retirees will receive annual pension increases equivalent to about 5 percent.

The pension agreement runs for six years and is not scheduled for discussion in the next round of bargaining between the union and the company in 1990.

The agreement also provides current

Chrysler workers with a 3 percent wage increase, plus a cost-of-living clause this year and a 25-cent-an-hour increase in 1988 and 1989.

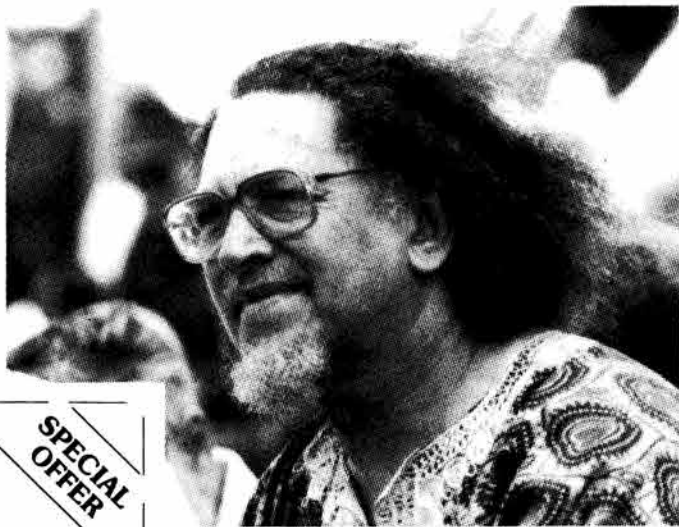
Chrysler dropped its demand for immediate concessions on job classifications and transfers. The CAW and Chrysler agreed to set up two joint task forces to study these issues.

The mood of workers at the ratification meetings here ranged from confidence that a good agreement had been won to a more wait-and-see attitude. One young worker said that the issue he was most interested in — the 40-hour work-week — wasn't even on the table. Mandatory overtime is still the norm at Chrysler Canada plants.

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Leader of Philippine mass-action coalition assassinated

BY RUSSELL JOHNSON

MANILA, Philippines — On the afternoon of September 19 Leandro Alejandro, secretary general of the Bayan mass-action alliance, announced plans for nationwide demonstrations September 21 to protest "the resurgence of fascism" in the Philippines. His news conference was at the National Press Club here in the capital.

At 5:00 p.m., less than an hour after the press conference concluded, Alejandro was dead, his head shattered by assassins' bullets.

Alejandro was ambushed as his car pulled up outside Bayan's national office in Quezon City, a section of metropolitan Manila that houses many government offices and national organizations. Alejandro's driver was seriously wounded. Two other Bayan staff members traveling in his car escaped with only minor injuries.

A spokesperson for President Corazon Aquino described Alejandro's murder as "a travesty of law and order."

After initially maintaining silence on the slaying, military and police authorities have stated they believe it was a provocation staged by rightist forces, led by Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, who staged an August 28 military mutiny.

Armed forces Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos urged Filipinos not to participate in the Bayan actions.

Another general threatened, "If the situation continues unabated, the president may just declare a state of emergency," according to the *Manila Chronicle*. After a September 21 meeting with top government and military officials, Aquino ruled out such a reimposition of martial law for the time being.

Bayan was founded in 1985 as an umbrella group bringing together various organizations to promote mass action against the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos and the domination of the Philippines by U.S. imperialism.

It has continued in existence since the ouster of Marcos in February 1986 and sought to maintain pressure on the Aquino government to implement land reform, dismantle U.S. military bases, respect civil liberties, and other demands that have been raised by the anti-Marcos "parliament of the streets."

Bayan's affiliates include the May 1 Movement (KMU) union federation and the Peasant Movement of the Philippines, and encompasses some 1.5 million members.

Rightward turn of gov't

September 21 marked the 15th anniversary of the imposition of martial law by Marcos in 1972. Bayan and other popularly based organizations here have been expressing growing concern at the sharp rightward direction of the government and renewed threats to civil liberties since the August 28 mutiny that came the closest of five coup attempts since February 1986 to actually unseating Aquino.

In response to pressure from the military hierarchy, Aquino has dumped the most prominent liberals remaining in her government after previous purges, including her executive secretary and closest adviser, Joker Arroyo. A couple of right-wing civilian members were removed from the cabinet as well. Two retired generals were among those appointed to replace Arroyo, raising to five the number of former generals currently holding top government jobs.

Alejandro's assassination followed a report leaked to the press last week that the military high command was considering a crackdown on four organizations, including Bayan and the May 1 Movement, which they claim are fronts for the Communist Party of the Philippines.

On September 18 Vice-president Salvador Laurel, who has resigned his cabinet responsibilities and openly thrown in his lot with the rightists in the military and congress, announced that he had been shown a copy of the military "order of battle" by intelligence officers. This is an army hit list of alleged communists. Laurel said that up to 40 people in government positions are on the list, as

well as leaders of mass organizations.

The *Manila Chronicle* reported that a general, who asked not to be named, denied that the military high command would have had Alejandro killed at this time even if he was on this "order of battle" because of its destabilizing effect on the government.

This anonymous general's denial notwithstanding, the Bayan leader's murder was a well-planned attack with all the hallmarks of military links. It involved closely following Alejandro's movements, probably through monitoring radio communications he made to Bayan headquarters.

Just one day before Alejandro's murder an army colonel died in a clash with New People's Army guerrillas on the island of Leyte. He was the highest-ranking officer to be killed in the war against the peasant insurgency. Revenge killings by the military have generally followed such incidents, although these have mostly focused on peasant organizers and trade unionists living in the vicinity of the battle zone.

Third attack

The killing marked the third murderous attack on militant leaders of the mass movement in Manila within nine months. In

Protest at bicentennial hits U.S. war

BY HALKET ALLEN

PHILADELPHIA — While President Reagan was speaking to a \$500-a-plate gala here for Republican Sen. John Heinz, some 800 people rallied near Independence Hall against the U.S.-run war on Nicaragua.

The rally followed the official celebration of the 200th anniversary of the adoption of the U.S. Constitution by the Constitutional Convention held in 1787.

Honoring the work of U.S. volunteer workers in Nicaragua like Ben Linder was a theme of the rally.

The Bread and Puppet Theater acted out the story of Ben Linder from the time he graduated from college until his murder by the contras while helping to build a hydroelectric project in northern Nicaragua.

Elisabeth Linder, Ben Linder's mother, spoke. She held the U.S. government, which arms and directs the contras, responsible for her son's murder. In their attack on Nicaragua, she said, U.S. officials "are willing to do the ultimate, which is what they did to Ben."

She added, "If Ben was targeted to deter North Americans from going to Nicaragua or working in Nicaragua, his killers have not succeeded. Many have stepped forward to take Ben's place and the hydroelectric



Militant/Halket Allen
Elisabeth Linder speaks at "We the People say end the war in Central America" action in Philadelphia.



Bayan alliance in 1986 demonstration. Secretary General Leandro Alejandro was gunned down on September 19.

November 1986 KMU Chairman Rolando Olalia and his driver were kidnapped, tortured, and murdered.

Last June the former leader of the New People's Army and senatorial candidate in the May congressional elections, Bernabe Buscayno, was ambushed while in his car. He survived by diving to the floor, but three of his companions were slain.

Both previous attacks have been linked to elements in the military. In Olalia's case, the evidence clearly pointed toward Honasan and the colonel's mentor, the then minister of defense Juan Ponce Enrile. No arrests have been made in either case.

Alex Padilla, a former Bayan officer whom Aquino has just replaced as customs commissioner, likened the killing to the

death squads run by the military in Central America. It was "clearly an example of right-wing terrorism like the experience of El Salvador," he said.

Alejandro, 27, was a former student leader who had been student council president at the University of the Philippines in 1983. He helped found the anti-imperialist League of Filipino Students, a Bayan affiliate.

Hundreds attended a September 20 memorial service for Alejandro at the University of the Philippines chapel. The League of Filipino Students called a student boycott of classes beginning September 24 to protest the assassination. The May 1 Movement has also announced a series of protest strikes.

project will go on."

Elisabeth Linder also spoke about Brian Willson, the Vietnam veteran who was run down by a munitions train during a demonstration in California protesting arms shipments to the contras and the government of El Salvador.

"We must realize," she said, "that our government will stop at nothing to realize its ends. We must continue our support of Brian Willson."

The Gallos, a family of singers from Nicaragua, performed songs from that country.

The rally capped a day of activities against the war. Leafletters — wearing white T-shirts bearing the slogan "Nicaraguans are not our enemy" — circulated among those attending the official celebration of the Constitution. Giant helium balloons, with messages proclaiming, "No contra aid" and "Shelter the homeless," floated overhead. And a contingent organized by Pledge of Resistance partici-

pated in the "Parade of the People" staged as part of the Constitution Day events.

Five people were arrested for attempting to cross a police barricade in order to present Reagan, who was speaking a block away, with a list of the names of homeless people who have died in Philadelphia and victims of the U.S. war in Central America.

The official celebration was smaller than organizers had expected, drawing tens of thousands instead of the predicted 1 million people.

Initially, police and parks department officials sought to bar antiwar activists and other protesters from expressing their views at events leading up to the bicentennial. After 18 groups and 36 individuals filed suit, Judge John Fullam issued an injunction July 10 barring further violation of rights at the events. He ruled that no one could be prevented from leafletting, carrying signs, wearing message buttons or T-shirts, or soliciting signatures.

Nat'l gay-rights march is building

BY GEORGE KONTANIS

NEW YORK — Some 50 activists met here September 16 to finalize plans for New York's participation in the October 11 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights in Washington D.C. The meeting was held at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center and was chaired by Leslie Cagan of the Mobilization for Survival.

A member of the transportation committee reported that a 10-car train and dozens of buses will be leaving from 10 locations to bring New Yorkers to the march.

Student and outreach organizers outlined plans to pass out some 50,000 leaflets on campuses and at subway stations during the next few weeks. Many fund-raising activities are planned to help victims of AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) participate in the march.

The march demands include: an end to discrimination against people with AIDS; money for AIDS, not for war; passage of the congressional lesbian and gay rights bill; repeal of all laws that make sodomy between consenting adults a crime; a presidential order banning antigay discrimination by the federal government; reproductive freedom; and an end to racism in this country and apartheid in South Africa.

From Boston, participants report that eight full-time organizers are involved in bringing people to the march. Two trains, a

plane, and dozens of buses have been chartered.

Boston's *Gay Community News* reports that some 35 organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union, Mobilization for Survival, and Rainbow Coalition, formed a task force to put up colorful advertisements on Boston's subway system urging commuters to attend the march.

In Philadelphia, 25 buses have been chartered to bring demonstrators to Washington, and tables and fund-raising events have been organized in many of that city's gay discos.

Labor union support for the march includes United Auto Workers District 65 in New York; American Federation of Teachers Local 3882; Rand Condell, president of the New York State Professional Employees Federation; Dolores Huerta, vice-president of the United Farm Workers; Harold Menlowitz, president of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1202; San Francisco Central Labor Council; Transit Workers Union Local 171; and New York Committee of Interns and Residents.

Speakers at the October 11 rally will include United Farm Workers President Cesar Chavez and former National Organization for Women president Eleanor Smeal.

For more information contact March on Washington Committee, P.O. Box 7781, Washington, D.C. 20044. (202) 783-1828.

Young Socialist leaders on tour

Getting a good response from students on campus

BY GREG McCARTAN

NEW YORK — Leaders of the Young Socialist Alliance are hitting the road this fall on speaking tours to the West Coast, Northeast, Texas, and Louisiana.

Francisco Picado, age 25, is a member of the editorial board of *Perspectiva Mundial*, a monthly socialist magazine published in Spanish. He has already visited Dallas, Lubbock, Austin, and Houston, Texas.

In each city Picado helped members of the YSA set up literature tables and meet other political activists. He also spoke at public meetings. "The tour has gotten a good reception," reported Picado. "On the college campuses our table is a magnet for young people who want to find out more about politics. A number of people are interested in joining the YSA."

The focus of these discussions has been the Cuban revolution, why youth should join work brigades to Nicaragua, the current struggles of U.S. workers, and how to continue to fight to break all U.S. ties to South African apartheid.

Another important part of the tours is building support for the YSA and Socialist Workers Party lawsuit against the government's spy apparatus. Picado is distributing material from the Political Rights Defense Fund on the recent court victories in the case.

He reports selling 31 subscriptions to the *Militant* newspaper and having "sold out almost all the Malcolm X literature I had at Texas Southern University."

Another YSA leader and the editor of the *Young Socialist* newspaper, Marea Himelgrin,

will be starting a month-long tour of 13 cities September 28. She'll begin in San Francisco and work her way up to Seattle, Washington.

Himelgrin, 27, was a member of the national student subcommittee for last spring's April 25 marches against U.S. intervention in Central America and U.S. support to apartheid. YSA members in San Francisco are planning a number of events at local colleges as well as social events for youth interested in joining the YSA.

James Winfield, a participant in the first Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Brigade to Nicaragua last summer, will start his tour in New Brunswick, New Jersey at Rutgers University. The peace brigade held many discussions with government, trade union, farm, and student leaders while in Nicaragua.

They also visited Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast.

Winfield, age 26, will tour Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and New York. YSA members in Boston are getting ready for the tour by expanding their work on college campuses.

On September 12 at a YSA-sponsored meeting at the State University of New York at Albany, 35 people heard Winfield, along with Lisa Sandberg, a SUNY student who spent the summer on a work brigade in Nicaragua.

To find out more about tours in your area, contact the nearest YSA chapter listed in the directory on page 12 or write to the YSA national office, 64 Watts St., New York, N.Y. 10013.



Militant/Holbrook Mahn

Francisco Picado

YSA campaigns in Philadelphia, Berkeley

BY JAMES THORNTON

PHILADELPHIA — A 28-year-old garment worker who is a member of the Philadelphia chapter of the Young Socialist Alliance is campaigning for mayor on the Socialist Workers Party ticket.

Richard Gaeta is a member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 170.

During a six-week effort, supporters of Gaeta's campaign, including the YSA chapter, gathered 6,000 signatures on petitions to place him on the ballot. They spent more than 600 hours signing up working people across the city.

Supporters also gathered signatures at their places of work. About 80 of Gaeta's coworkers at Good Lad, a maker of children's garments, signed up.

Signers included several sailors from the USS *Kitty Hawk*, which was docked at the navy yard here.

One young worker expressed amazement that a worker was running: "I thought you had to be rich to run. I'll sign."

Another said, "He's a union member, against apartheid and against the war in Nicaragua — sure, I'll sign."

Gaeta is challenging Mayor Wilson Goode, the Democratic candidate, and former mayor Frank Rizzo, who is the Republican candidate.

The petitions were submitted to the city's board of elections July 31. Two weeks later, the board reported that Gaeta had secured a place on the November ballot.

Gaeta's campaign has won a good response from working people here, but has faced some harassment from other quarters. On July 9 two campaign workers, who had set up a literature and petitioning

table outside the Reading Terminal Market, were ordered to leave by Reading Co. security guards. The armed guards ordered them out of the area, even though the table was on a public sidewalk.

About two weeks later, a socialist literature table at the "Italian Market" in South Philadelphia was overturned by thugs, while cops stood by and made no effort to stop the violence.

The campaign committee filed a formal complaint with the police and wrote letters of protest to Mayor Goode and Police Commissioner Kevin Tucker.

The Young Socialist Alliance here is urging youth to support Gaeta. The YSA is distributing an open letter at plant gates and on high school and college campuses.

"What is the difference," the letter asks, "between Mayor Goode, who ordered a bomb dropped on the Black community, and former mayor Rizzo who is infamous for having encouraged police assaults on Black youth?"

"Youth subjected to strip searches and paddling in schools and young workers at the bottom of the wage scales are the same youth the rulers would like to send to die in Nicaragua."

TAMAR ROSENFELD

BERKELEY, Calif. — Against the backdrop of a banner bearing the names of

Pathfinder Books and the Young Socialist Alliance, supporters of the YSA set up a big literature display daily at the University of California campus here during the first week of classes.

The hottest sellers were *Two Speeches by Malcolm X* and Che Guevara's *Socialism and Man*. Two copies of *New International* featuring "The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop," by Steve Clark, were sold. Sales totaled \$428 over the week.

Many students checked out the display of colorful YSA T-shirts, and during the week, we noticed a number of people wearing them on campus. The most popular were those with portraits of Malcolm X and Che Guevara.

By the end of the week, the table had become popular as a place to ask questions and exchange views about political issues. Many students wanted to know what socialism and communism are all about.

Some young women were attracted to the table by the array on literature on the roots of the oppression of women.

A reception was held during the week for Peter Anastos, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of San Francisco, in a campus cafeteria.

One of the students who attended the reception later came to the classes on socialism held that weekend at the Pathfinder bookstore in Oakland.

Phoenix: socialist candidate fights for access to ballot

BY BARBARA GREENWAY

PHOENIX — At a news conference September 1, Bernie Senter, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor here, announced his continued fight for access to the October 6 ballot. He called for an end to undemocratic and restrictive election laws that keep working-class and independent candidates from qualifying for ballot status.

Senter, a meat-packer, works at Sunland Beef and is a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 99R.

Joining Senter at the news conference was Carolyn Lowery, New Alliance Party candidate for city council. Lowery and Senter were both ruled off the ballot on the charge that they lacked enough qualified signatures on petitions. Senter submitted 3,000 signatures on nominating petitions even though only 1,500 were required.

Lowery stated, "They just want to throw my people away. They're saying my people don't count." Lowery is a Black community activist and leader in a campaign against police brutality.

Senter's coworkers at Sunland Beef follow his campaign closely. "Many people have told me that you have to be rich to run for public office," Senter said. "I explain that my campaign focuses on the war being waged on working people by the government and corporations. Working people need our own candidates, our own party, and our own government."

"The campaign has opened up a wealth of discussions on the job," Senter

explained. "Many fellow workers are rooting for me. One of the hottest topics of discussion is my call for the elimination of the border patrol. A lot of my coworkers are Mexican immigrants. They like the idea. Others disagree."

The socialist campaign has met with excitement and interest throughout the area. Many people like a candidate who is opposed to Washington's war on Nicaragua and opposed to continued support for the apartheid regime in South Africa.

A big issue here has been the cover-up by the government of high incidences of childhood leukemia deaths and birth defects in a working-class section of the city. A public meeting attended by 1,000 people showed the Maryvale community's outrage and voiced skepticism of the proposed government investigation.

In a statement to the meeting Senter said, "Working people from Maryvale need to take over control of the investigation. The corporations, not working people, should pay for the investigation and cleanup" of toxic materials causing the cancer.

Senter is also demanding that Martin Luther King's birthday be made a state holiday, and that the billions now spent on war be used for building schools, hospitals, public transportation, housing, and child-care centers.

A focus of the campaign will be to broaden the fight to end the restrictive election laws that keep candidates like Senter and Lowery off the ballot.



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Fund boosts revolutionary publications

BY FRED FELDMAN

Supporters of the *Militant* and other socialist publications are on a campaign to raise a \$150,000 Fall Socialist Publications Fund. Opened at the August 8-13 Socialist Educational and Active Workers Conference, the fund is scheduled to be completed November 24. More than \$80,000 was pledged by 400 supporters at the conference.

This sizable fund is needed to maintain and expand the coverage and readership — in the United States and around the world — of the *Militant*, the monthly Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*, the Marxist theoretical journal *New International*, the French-language *Nouvelle Internationale*, and Pathfinder books.

The socialist publications are, as the masthead of the *Militant* proclaims, "published in the interests of working people." They provide working people with one thing we vitally need to advance our struggles: the truth.

They tell the truth about the contra war against Nicaragua; about the Cuban revolution; about the Philippines; about Che Guevara, Nelson Mandela, and Malcolm X; about the Grenada revolution and its overthrow; about U.S. war moves in the Persian Gulf; about strike battles in the United States; about AIDS and the government's response to it; and about the struggles of British miners and Haitian farmers.

The *Militant* and other socialist publications help working people cut through the fog of lies told by the employers, the government, and the big-business media on all these issues.

The Socialist publications play this truth-telling role not only in the United States, but in a number of other countries as well. The *Militant* has a growing body of readers and distributors among fighters in Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand, Iceland, and other countries.

Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia, based in Sydney, Australia, has held meetings in Manila to launch such Pathfinder books as *Fidel and Religion* and *Fidel Castro: Nothing Can Stop the Course of History*, two interviews with Cuban head of state Fidel Castro; and *Fidel Castro's Political Strategy, From Moncada to Victory*, by Marta Harnecker.

New International has published thor-



Militant/Holbrook Mahn

Revolutionary literature on display at August Socialist Educational and Active Workers Conference in Ohio.

oughgoing reports and analyses on the struggles of farmers in the United States and Canada.

Perspectiva Mundial is finding a growing body of readers in Quebec and elsewhere in Canada, as well as in Central America, Puerto Rico, and Latino communities in the United States.

Nouvelle Internationale has readers from Quebec, to fighters for democracy in Haiti and New Caledonia, to liberation fighters in Burkina Faso.

Preparing, publishing, and promoting the socialist publications costs a lot of money. It takes thousands of dollars to send *Militant* reporters to provide on-the-spot coverage of struggles in the Philip-

pines, Angola, New Caledonia, Haiti, Nicaragua, Trinidad, Jay, Maine, or Sioux Falls, Iowa. The publication and promotion of a book of writings by Che Guevara being issued by Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia — scheduled for October — is costing tens of thousands of dollars.

The socialist publications have only one source of funds — the working people who read and distribute them.

That is what the Fall Socialist Publications Fund is about — asking all readers to help continue the expansion of the socialist press.

Around the country supporters of the socialist publications are organizing to raise money. In New York City, they have

adopted the goal of collecting \$15,000 in the region.

According to Leslie Dork, publications fund director in New York, supporters intend to take the fund-raising campaign not only to those who already know the socialist publications, but also to the thousands of new readers of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New International* who will be won in the New York area during the current subscription campaign. "We will get support for the publications fund from foes of the U.S. war in Central America, fighters for Black rights, unionists fighting against concessions, and farmers seeking to hold onto their land and assure a decent living for their families," said Dork.

1,500 protest in Boston against Haiti gov't

BY JON HILLSON

BOSTON — More than 1,500 Haitian community activists filled the streets of Boston's Black community September 5 as dozens shared duties bearing the casket of Antoine Thurel, who died in a suicide protest against the Haitian government August 31.

The demonstrators cheered and chanted, calling for the downfall of the current regime in Haiti, singing Haitian patriotic songs, and shouting that "Antoine Thurel will live forever." The funeral march and procession came one day after hundreds gathered to honor Thurel at a religious wake.

At a news conference September 4, Thurel's eldest son, Peguy, who had just arrived from Haiti where he is a trade union official, said, "When I realized what my father did, I knew that he had done something that will have a significance for all Haitians."

"It was not a suicide," he said, "it was a sacrifice." On August 31, 56-year-old Antoine Thurel immolated himself on the steps of the Massachusetts State House. Thurel doused himself with gasoline, then lit himself with a cigarette lighter.

He left behind a placard in the Creole language denouncing the current Haitian government as a "product of the CIA," protected by "soldiers of death paid by the United States."

In his message, Thurel hailed Haitian priest Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a target of government repression. "I want," Thurel, a Boston cab driver, wrote, "to offer myself in holocaust for the complete liberation of my country... may Haiti live for the new liberation."

The incident focused widespread attention on this city's Haitian community of nearly 50,000 and its deep opposition to the U.S.-backed Haitian military junta, which Washington installed to replace its fleeing ally, dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier.

Franz Minuty, Boston correspondent for the weekly *Haiti Progrès* and a leader of the Haiti Solidarity Committee, said that while there is varied reaction in the community to the suicide, the typical response is to view Thurel's death as "a patriotic act, something he felt would wake people up."

Thurel's young daughter was recently

brutalized in her home in Haiti by government soldiers. This act deeply affected him, a long-time personal friend, Jean-Claude Sanon, said.

Thurel "was extremely upset with the American government," according to Sanon. The beating of his daughter "pushed him to the extreme, because he loved his kids so much."

Thurel alluded to the possibility of his self-immolation a few days after the assault on his child. "He told me 'I don't see no other solution,' that he felt like his heart would stop beating, that he wanted to shake up his country and the Haitian com-

munity here," Sanon said.

A September 1 community meeting of 200 organized the wake and September 5 funeral rally. More than \$2,200 in cash was raised from the floor to aid Thurel's family, and round-trip plane tickets were donated to bring his children to Boston for the funeral.

"We must protest like they do in South Africa," one Haitian worker told those who packed into the meeting house.

"We are a people, a nationality that must begin to organize," Minuty told the meeting. "That is the only way to make sure that Antoine Thurel did not die in vain."

West Virginia nurses reject takebacks

BY GREG RELAFORD AND JOE KLEIDON

FAIRMONT, W. Va. — Even the day-long rain didn't dampen the spirits of the striking nurses and technicians of National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees District 1199 at a Labor Day rally and picnic here.

"It took nine years to get our benefits. We don't want to give them up now. We're going to fight to save them," Vicki Tennant, president of the Fairmont General Hospital local, told the umbrella-toting crowd of more than 200 strikers and their supporters.

Tom Mancino, a representative of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) District 31, pointed to the 1199 strike as "our struggle. This union-busting has got to stop."

The strike began August 31. The administration is demanding elimination of family health insurance and holiday benefits and reduction of sick leaves and pension benefits.

A year ago, the hospital administration claimed it wasn't turning a profit. Nurses and technicians agreed to a wage freeze and a one-year no-strike pledge. The union has since learned that Fairmont General made \$800,000 in profits in 1986. They then hired additional administrative personnel, as well as giving management a 5 to 10 percent salary increase.

The nurses, on the other hand, have been

working short-handed with forced overtime and no pay increase. One nurse explained that she had worked three years and accumulated three days of vacation time, but wasn't allowed to take the days off due to short staff.

The amount of support in the community for the strike is impressive. Responding to a sign by pickets to "Honk if you support us," motorists continually honked their horns.

This show of solidarity has come under attack by the hospital administration, which has demanded enforcement of the "Hospital Quiet Zone" regulation.

The call for the rally was made by 1199 at the August 31 meeting of the Tri-County United Labor Committee (TCULC). More than 15 nurses attended to ask for the support and solidarity of the committee.

The TCULC was initiated by Mine Workers District 31 in response to a push by antiunion forces for "right-to-work" legislation. It includes representatives of UMWA locals, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 424, International Union of Electronic Workers Local 627, and Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 347.

Since then, coal miners, UMWA officials, steelworkers, and garment and electrical workers have maintained a presence on the picket line. UMWA District 31 President Eugene Claypool has asked all mine workers to support the strike and to boycott the hospital.

Support the Fall Socialist Publications Fund

At a rally August 14 we announced the launching of this fund, which has a goal of raising \$150,000 by Nov. 24.

Its purpose is to finance publication of the *Militant*, the monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, the Marxist magazine *New International*, the French-language *Nouvelle Internationale*, and Pathfinder books and pamphlets.

As of September 23, \$82,000 has been pledged and \$12,300 collected.

I wish to help the fund, enclosed is:

— \$1,000 — \$500 — \$100
— \$25 \$ _____ other

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

Mail to Fall Socialist Publications Fund, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.



West Virginia sales teams target mine portals

BY MALIK MIAH

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Pattie Sánchez works for Rockwell International in nearby Uniontown, Pennsylvania. She's a member of the United Steelworkers of

out on a Thursday. But Pattie agreed to go on Monday, September 14, so I could participate before returning to New York. Like most mines in the area, Warrick is set off the main highway.

half. Counting driving time to and from Morgantown, it takes a good three hours.

It was a little slow, and our team only sold one *Militant*. "Normally we sell four to six papers," Sánchez told me. "Never have any hassles, either. Most miners simply roll down their windows and give us a dollar. Not much discussion."

A regular bought a paper this morning, too. But it seemed that only a light crew worked Sunday night. Only a few cars left after the first shift went in.

Nevertheless, the portal sale was useful for me to get a feel for plant-gate sales in the greater Morgantown area. Supporters of the *Militant* here organize sales at 12 worksites over a two-week period. There are 18 regular distributors of the paper.

Two supporters organize every-

body to go out on sales. Sánchez is one of the organizers.

"We divide up the salespeople into teams. Each team has three worksites it targets over a two-week period. Every week, the team sells at two of the three worksites," she said.

Currently, supporters sell at eight mines, a garment shop, a glass factory, and two other places.

One potential problem with this tight organization, she noted, is that no one can get sick or have a major change in their work situation. When this happens, sales can fall through.

So far, that hasn't happened. But, she added, "we need to rediscuss how to focus on key sales — the ones that should occur each week — like our portal sales."

The main objective of sales at

worksites, as the experiences of Morgantown supporters indicate, is to introduce the *Militant* to workers and have political discussions with them about national and international events, including the employer's offensive against wages and working conditions.

That's why, Kathy Mickells, a laid-off coal miner, told me later, "We focus on sales to coal miners. What happens to coal miners in this area affects all working people. The second-largest coal producer in the country, Consolidation Coal is located here. Getting to these workers is a top priority."

It's possible to sell *Militant* subscriptions at portals and other plant-gate sales, Sánchez said. On a recent sales trip to West Virginia's Panhandle, Sánchez's team sold three subscriptions at portals.

SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

America, and a political activist.

Once a week she rises early in the morning, after her afternoon shift the night before, to sell *Militant* to coal miners in Greensboro, Pennsylvania — a 45-minute drive north of here. She and another *Militant* supporter have been selling regularly at the Duquesne Light Co.'s Warrick mine since June.

The sales team normally goes

We arrived while the fog was still thick and set up at the mine entrance.

While the first shift starts at 8 a.m., most miners begin arriving up to 45 minutes early to have time to change into their work clothes. The midnight shift begins leaving at 15 minutes after 8, after showering. Sánchez told me that the sale generally lasts an hour and a

'Militant' tells truth about paperworkers' fight

BY NORTON SANDLER

In recent weeks, supporters of the *Militant* have been making an effort to talk to unionists involved in the fight against International Paper Co.

The effort has resulted in our readers getting firsthand, accurate coverage of the paperworkers' fight. This reporting is important to help mobilize support for the

paperworkers among coal miners, garment workers, auto workers, and other unionists in mines, mills, and factories around the country.

Several reports have been filed from Jay, Maine, an important center of the struggle. Much of that coverage has been organized by *Militant* supporters from Boston who have made numerous trips to Jay since the

paperworkers first went on strike there in mid-June. This week we have a second article by *Militant* staff writer Susan LaMont who spent several days in Jay recently.

Reporting teams have also talked to striking workers at IP plants in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, and De Pere, Wisconsin, and to those locked out by the paper giant at its Mobile, Alabama, mill.

And a team visited IP's Corinth, New York, plant where the contract expires September 30.

In addition to finding out the facts about the struggles, these trips have also resulted in a number of paperworkers and their supporters being introduced to the *Militant* for the first time.

At the Corinth plant, two students from the State University of New York campus in Albany joined two supporters from New York City in selling 34 copies of the paper during shift changes.

At a Labor Day event in De Pere, 17 subscriptions to the *Militant* were sold.

In Lock Haven, after talking to strikers at the union headquarters and on the picket lines, two supporters had success selling subscriptions door to door in working-class neighborhoods near the IP plant.

The good response to the revolutionary press is not surprising. First of all, the unionists like the coverage of their own struggle. But something else is involved. As working people try to make progress in battles with their employers, they begin to notice fights by other workers and farmers — not only in this country but in other countries as well. They begin to see that

their fights have a lot in common with these other fights.

This goes to the heart of why subscription campaigns are so important. Regular long-term readers of the *Militant* begin to draw political lessons about how capitalist oppression operates and how it can be eliminated. And a subscription campaign to win introductory readers is the first step in developing a long-term readership.

The current subscription drive for the *Militant* and the monthly Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial* began in mid-August and runs through November 24. The scoreboard is based on subscriptions received by the *Militant* business office every Wednesday afternoon. You can check the last day recorded by looking at the closing news date printed on page 2 of each issue.

As the accompanying scoreboard indicates, the current drive to win 6,000 new *Militant* readers is far behind schedule.

Also behind is the drive to win 1,500 new readers for *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 2,000 readers for the Marxist magazine *New International*.

Two weeks ago, 300 *Militant* subscriptions were sold. This past week supporters sold 324 subscriptions.

With nine weeks to go in the drive, supporters will have to average 541 subscriptions each week to reach the 6,000 goal by the end of November. Each area will want to begin discussing steps necessary to catch up.

In coming issues, we will report on proposals for closing the gap.

Fall Sales Scoreboard

Area	<i>Militant</i> subscriptions			New International single copies			<i>Perspectiva Mundial</i> subscriptions		
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	%
Greensboro, N.C.	115	54	47	20	0	0	10	0	0
Houston	160	75	47	50	0	0	40	4	10
Cleveland	105	40	38	20	0	0	15	2	13
Des Moines, Iowa	110	39	35	35	0	0	15	1	7
Portland, Ore.	80	26	33	40	13	33	30	1	3
Morgantown, W.Va.	130	42	32	25	0	0	5	0	0
Oakland, Calif.	150	45	30	100	0	0	50	6	12
Detroit	200	55	28	35	0	0	25	1	4
Milwaukee	115	30	26	35	0	0	15	0	0
Seattle	300	73	24	50	7	14	50	12	24
Washington, D.C.	130	31	24	60	0	0	30	8	27
Kansas City	105	25	24	25	0	0	20	6	30
San Jose, Calif.	75	17	23	*	0	*	50	7	14
Boston	200	41	21	50	0	0	100	8	8
Birmingham, Ala.	150	29	19	*	0	*	5	1	20
Phoenix	100	19	19	*	0	*	80	13	16
San Francisco	180	33	18	50	0	0	70	6	9
New York	600	106	18	350	143	41	150	50	33
San Diego	85	15	18	25	11	44	40	11	28
Atlanta	120	20	17	35	0	0	20	4	20
Salt Lake City	150	25	17	25	0	0	25	3	12
Newark, N.J.	350	58	17	75	0	0	125	12	10
Twin Cities, Minn.	180	29	16	100	0	0	20	0	0
St. Louis	175	27	15	50	0	0	10	2	20
Austin, Minn.	85	13	15	10	0	0	15	0	0
Annandale, N.Y.	20	3	15	-	0	-	-	1	-
Miami	120	17	14	40	0	0	40	2	5
Philadelphia	200	27	14	50	0	0	50	2	4
Baltimore	140	17	12	40	0	0	10	0	0
Los Angeles	300	31	10	100	0	0	175	21	12
Chicago	225	23	10	*	0	*	75	2	3
Omaha, Neb.	70	6	9	20	0	0	10	2	20
Charleston, W.Va.	125	8	6	20	0	0	-	-	-
Price, Utah	48	3	6	10	0	0	2	0	0
Cincinnati	10	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-
Louisville, Ky.	5	0	0	-	0	-	-	-	-
Pittsburgh	*	15	*	*	0	*	0	1	-
Canada	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-
Other Internat'l	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Totals	5,413	1,130	19%	1,545	174	9%	1,377	200	13%
Drive Goals	6,000			2,000			1,500		
Should Be		2,064	34%		688	34%		516	34%

* Goal not adopted yet



Seventeen subscriptions were sold at rally in support of striking United Paperworkers International Union Local 6288 in De Pere, Wisconsin, in early September.

The crime of child labor around the globe

BY NORTON SANDLER

Tens of millions of children, some as young as four or five years old, work in fields and factories around the world every day.

Children work in garment shops in the Philippines and Thailand; carpet factories in Morocco; gold and coal mines in Peru and Colombia; on rubber plantations in Malaysia; tea plantations in Brazil and Sri Lanka; and in fields across the United States.

Last year, UN researchers estimated that 88 million children ages 11 to 15 worked outside the home. This figure does not include the millions younger than 11 who have jobs, or children who work at home.

In both factories and fields, children work for rock-bottom wages in conditions that would not be tolerated by adults. Others work as maids or houseboys. Still others peddle and hustle in the streets, or are forced to become prostitutes. Those who start work very young are often physically worn out by the time they reach their mid-30s. Many never are able to attend school and are illiterate.

The exploitation of children has drawn attention recently in some U.S. papers. Joseph Albright and Marcia Kunstel wrote six articles that appeared in the *Atlanta Constitution* and other Cox Syndicate newspapers in June. The *Black American* also ran a series on child labor by Kristin Helmore and Sara Terry.

What is the cause of the massive use of child labor throughout the semicolonial world?

The U.S., European, and Japanese ruling billionaire families scour the globe in search of profits. They form huge multinational monopolies to try to maintain control over natural resources and secure markets for finished products.

These companies also own factories in underdeveloped countries where workers can be paid less than what they have to pay workers at home.

Local capitalists join with the imperialists in trying to keep wages as low as possible.

Even when they don't own all or a portion of a particular enterprise, the ruling imperialist families make millions from their worldwide monopoly over banking and over the distribution, transportation, and sale of food, raw materials, and finished products.

And the crushing debt payments extracted by the International Monetary Fund and the other imperialist banks result in ever increasing demands for sacrifices from workers and peasants in the semicolonial world.

For investors, cheap labor is attraction

"The very sad reality is that we're part of the Third World," Aura Sabilano, head of the Philippine Labor Department's bureau of women and minors told Albright and

Kunstel. "We're part of the dumping ground where cheap labor is the main attraction. For investors, cheap labor is the main attraction of the Philippines at this point in time."

Children are the "cheapest" labor of all.

Because of earlier struggles by workers and farmers, most child labor in the United States, Britain, and the other imperialist countries has been done away with.

But the imperialists join with the semicolonial capitalists in trying to repress struggles by workers and farmers. And the relative strength or weakness of the labor movement in a particular country has a bearing on the degree to which children work.

"Children are exploitable, they are more docile. They work fast and they don't get tired so easily, so more work can be extracted out of them," explained Ashok Narayan, India's joint secretary of labor, to the *Black American* reporters. "And even if one cheats them by paying less wages, they are not in a position to detect it."

Wages in the Philippines are among the lowest in Asia. At War Win's Style shirt factory in Manila, 15-year-old Eliza Lualhati wakes up at 6:00 a.m. on the pile of cloth scraps where she sleeps next to a sewing machine. After eating a bowl of rice with a little gravy on it, she sweeps up the area near her machine.

At 7:00, she begins sewing, stopping at noon for a two-hour break. Then she sews until midnight with only a half hour out for dinner. If the company is busy, Eliza will sew until 3:00 a.m. In December, at the peak time of the year, children in this shop can work up to 23 hours a day.

Eliza's wages are 13 cents an hour. She also has to pay for her own thread. "That way they will not waste it," her boss says.

Bangkok rail station

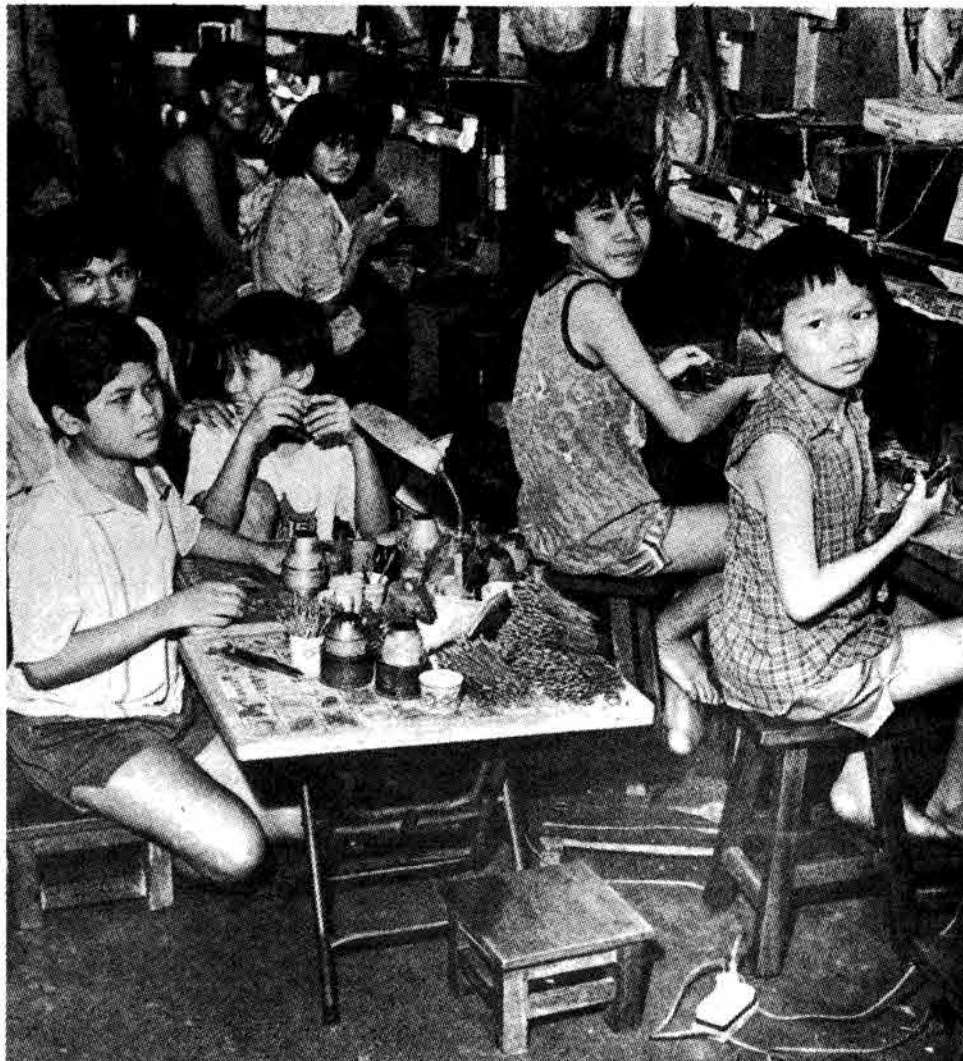
There are thousands of factories in Thailand that employ children. Pay for children in the factories Albright and Kunstel visited averaged less than seven cents an hour. Many children work up to 75 hours a week.

Because of starvation conditions in Thailand's drought-stricken northeast, young peasant girls flock into Bangkok looking for employment. Job brokers nicknamed "fishermen" and "fisherwomen" wait for them at the train station and offer to help them.

The girls are taken to small, live-in factories called "shophouses" where they are forced to work up to 15 hours a day. Many have only a few days off a year. Sometimes the brokers will send parents \$80 to \$160 for guaranteeing that their child will spend a year in a shophouse.

India

Because of grinding poverty (India has an average per capita income of \$260 a year), children are forced into the work-



Rick McKay

Children polishing gems in factory in Thailand. Tens of millions of children work in factories and fields around the world, including in United States.

place early in life. In many cases, it is only children who can find jobs.

An estimated 45 million children work in India.

Reporters Helmore and Terry described the working conditions of Shadab, age nine. For the past three years he has put in 12 hours a day, six days a week as a grinder in a lock factory 80 miles from New Delhi.

Temperatures in the factory can be as high as 120 degrees. By noon each day, Shadab's body is covered with black metal dust. He works without eye protection or dust mask.

Shadab helps support his family on 17 cents a day.

There are several glass factories in the Indian city of Firozabad where boys work amidst molten and broken glass without eye protection, shoes, or gloves. They are paid less than \$1 a day.

Most U.S. companies try to conceal their direct role in the exploitation of children. The Corning Glass works has an affiliate company in India. It claims, in accordance with Indian law, that the affiliate does not employ children under 14. But this affiliate subcontracts work to a Firozabad company called West Glass. A third of the 500 workers at West Glass are children.

Carpet industry

The carpet industry is heavily subsidized by the Indian government. That's because carpet sales bring in badly needed foreign exchange.

Neera Burra, a New Delhi sociologist who opposes child labor, says India's carpets are sold cheaply around the world "because we pay our labor — especially children — so little."

Morocco has laws prohibiting children under 12 from working. But as is the case in most countries where children work, the laws are virtually ignored. No one was prosecuted for employing children in Morocco in 1985 or 1986.

"Normally, it's better for a girl to begin at the age of seven so she gets more experience, so she gets used to the work and becomes adjusted. Less than seven, it's bad for the health of the girl," explained one Moroccan boss.

But girls as young as four work in the carpet factories. The children are paid at piece rates that can average as little as 15 cents an hour.

Moroccan carpets are featured at department stores in North America and Europe. At Macy's in New York in May, a five-square-yard Moroccan carpet was sold for \$499. Labor cost was \$19.50.

Children in the fields

Child laborers face extreme conditions in the fields as well.

Ten thousand children ages 5 to 13 work on tea plantations in Brazil's Ribeira Valley. They carry 52-pound bags of tea. A whole family of tea pickers in this valley earns \$1 a day.

Wages for tea pickers are even lower in Sri Lanka where children as young as five are paid between a penny and a penny and half a day.

On the rubber plantations in Malaysia it is common for children to start working when they are nine.

In India's Assam Valley, children spray pesticides on crops.

Many children work alongside their parents, but not all. Some 2,000 children in Nigeria were recently taken from their parents and put to work on cocoa plantations.

In a recent article in Manila's *Sunday Malaya*, Rowena Reyes-Boquiren described the conditions for children who pick vegetables in Benguet Province in the Philippines: "Here, children of poor families experience the harshness of life and learn its bitter lessons at a very young age. Where other children go to school and play, the boys and girls of Benguet are not only made to work for a living — they are overworked and underpaid."

Child labor in the U.S.

In the United States, individual states didn't begin passing laws against child labor until the early part of this century, under pressure from the labor movement. And federal legislation preventing anyone under the age of 16 from working in factories wasn't adopted until 1938.

There are still instances of child labor today in garment sweatshops in New York. In other cases, bosses try to get workers to take piecework home with them. Exhausted from putting in a full day already, workers in this situation will often have relatives, from the elderly to children, put in time on the homework.

It is now illegal for children under 12 to work in the fields unless special permission has been granted by the Department of Labor. But hundreds of thousands of children pick fruit and vegetables and prune alongside their parents. Growers in the Yakima Valley in Washington State pay the mostly Mexican farm workers less than the U.S. minimum wage of \$3.35 an hour. Children as young as six and seven work alongside their parents.

Growing seasons are short, and a family's survival can depend on everyone working. In addition, many women have no place to leave their children.

The scourge of the super-exploitation of children is a permanent feature of imperialist domination of large parts of the globe. It will be done away with as part of the mass struggles by working people to put an end to this tyranny.



Rick McKay

Children at glass factory in India

Canadian gov't pushes anti-immigrant drive

BY HARRY RING

Last winter, in Montreal, a group of Chileans conducted a three-week hunger strike protesting a crackdown on refugee entries into Canada.

Their action was prompted by a new Canadian immigration regulation that left 88 Chilean refugees stranded in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The 88 had booked passage to London, via Montreal. The Canadian government said they had made it known that they intended to get off the plane in Canada and seek refugee status. Under a Canadian regulation issued February 20, they were denied the right to board the plane for London unless they had a Canadian transit visa.

In response to the hunger strike and the support it evoked, Canada's Immigration Minister Benoit Bouchard announced that on humanitarian grounds, six of the 88 refugees would be permitted to enter Canada. These included three women and their children. The three women had husbands already in Canada.

For the rest of the 88, Bouchard declared, an investigation showed they would not be in danger if they returned to the land of the murderous Pinochet dictatorship.

Sikhs imprisoned

In July there was a massive victimization of Sikhs fleeing from India. A freighter they arrived on was seized and 174 refugees were held in concentration-camp conditions at an army base in Halifax. Their legal rights were ignored.

Government officials and the media joined in justifying this by smearing the Sikhs as potential "terrorists."

Earlier, in January, Bouchard announced that from then on immigrants from Turkey and four African nations — Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Mauritius and Gambia — could enter Canada as visitors only if they had an entry visa.

This was done, it was asserted, to stem a "flood" of refugees from entering the country. Earlier, some 1,700 Turks had reportedly come to Canada.

Some of these told immigration officials they had been lured there by ads in the Turkish press asserting that Canada needed 125,000 new workers. Such ads are often used to assure a surplus of job applicants and consequent driving down of wages.

New immigration restrictions

The atmosphere being generated against immigrants has been such that at one point a government official was compelled to announce an investigation had been ordered on the behavior and competence of Canada's 35 citizenship judges.

Immigration applicants — particularly from Third World countries — charged they were subjected to derogatory remarks and biased decisions by some of the judges.

Meanwhile, in February, the drastic new

immigration regulations were issued, and in May an anti-immigrant bill was introduced in Parliament.

Reporting the introduction of these, an Associated Press dispatch commented ironically that they came just six months after Canada was awarded a United Nations medal for aiding refugees.

Compared to the United States, the Canadian policy has, up to now, been more open.

Prior to the February regulations, Canada had a list of 19 countries from which refugees would be automatically granted work permits. These were valid for a year, with processing of their claim for asylum afterward. The list included governments deemed to be "communist," as well as such nations as Guatemala and El Salvador where there are armed conflicts.

The policy that obtained before the list was scrapped had not been the product of pure generosity on the part of the Canadian government.

As Christopher Taylor, Canada's director of immigration policy, told a U.S. reporter at the time of the harsh new regulations:

"We are trying to take more immigrants because there is growing concern about population decline, or negative population growth, in Canada in the next 15 or 20 years."

"But the number of refugee claimants are unprecedented."

Increased immigration

True enough, there has been a recent increase in the number of people seeking refuge in Canada. In good measure this is one of the results of the reactionary anti-immigrant laws recently enacted in the United States.

Fearing a greater threat of deportation under the new law, undocumented Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees in the United States decided it would be wiser to move on to Canada.

But under the new Canadian regulations, hundreds of these victims of repression in their homeland are being denied entry into that country and are now living in what amounts to refugee camps on the U.S. side of the border. They continue to face the



Chileans on hunger strike in Montreal after being denied entry into Canada. Government's campaign has led to substantial tightening of immigration restrictions.

threat of deportations that could mean their very lives. They are expected to wait at the border while Canadian immigration authorities ponder their entry applications.

In turning these refugees back, the capitalist politicians in Canada aim at a double purpose. One is to limit the entry of Third World immigrants. The other is to give a backhanded assist to the U.S. war drive in Central America.

Canada's action gives credence to the lying claim by Washington that there is "democracy" in El Salvador and Guatemala and that those who flee these countries are not "genuine" political refugees.

This theme — separating the "genuine" refugees from the alleged fakes — is a central part of the propaganda justifying the current moves in Canada.

With the scrapping of the list of countries from which people are given automatic entry, the regulations now require that those who want to come to Canada first obtain a visa in their own country. In countries like El Salvador and Guatemala doing so can mean risking your life.

Bills C-84 and C-55

Two pending laws, labelled bills C-84 and C-55, are even more harsh.

If enacted, Bill C-55 would create a board that would screen applications from refugees within 48 hours of their arrival. Within 72 hours, those deemed to be "false" refugees could be deported to their homeland or to a "safe" third country. Appeals of such deportation orders could be

made only from outside Canada.

Under Bill C-84, introduced in August, refugees lacking proper identity papers could be held for up to 28 days. Those tagged as "security risks" could be also held.

Within a 24-mile limit, ships bearing refugees could be boarded and turned back, thus denying those on board even the right to a hearing of their claim.

Like the new U.S. law, the bill would make it a criminal offense, with appropriate prison terms and fines, to help an undocumented refugee enter the country.

It is estimated that from 60 to 85 percent of those seeking refuge would have their claims denied.

Both measures have been opposed by a broad range of labor, church, solidarity, and refugee-aid organizations.

Ed Broadbent, a leader of the New Democratic Party, Canada's labor party, assailed Bill C-84 as a "travesty of justice."

And the Canadian Labour Congress has called for "scrapping" Bill C-55.

These bills not only do a grave injustice to those seeking refuge, but harm to all working people in Canada. They are aimed at promoting racism and creating an "illegal" sector of the working class even more vulnerable to exploitation. That leads to driving down the living standards of all workers.

And the drive against "illegal" immigrants also means trampling on the rights of all those who cross the Canadian border.

Cops victimize socialist at border

Continued from front page

political material in Warren's bag — a book, a pamphlet, a copy of a recent injunction barring U.S. government victimization of the SWP, and the text of a political report Warren had delivered to a recent party gathering.

When Warren asked what right the agent had to read his personal material, the agent became agitated and abusive.

"You have no rights in this country," he shouted, adding, "Sit down and shut up!"

But the problem was not simply a right-wing, racist customs agent. At least two customs supervisors were involved in the victimization of Warren, plus uniformed customs cops.

Even Warren's request to make a phone call was denied for a number of hours.

During his detention, Warren's bags were searched a total of five times by Canadian and U.S. customs personnel. U.S. law enforcement officials were contacted. But this only confirmed that Warren has no police record.

Meanwhile, Warren's Canadian friends who had been waiting for him verified he had been on his scheduled flight and correctly deduced he must be at customs. They retained a lawyer who succeeded in getting through by phone to where Warren was being held.

Warren was permitted to speak to the lawyer briefly. Then the customs supervisor got on the phone telling the lawyer a blatantly false story.

He said that Warren had refused to cooperate with a customs agent and had de-

manded to leave the country because he didn't like the way he was being treated.

Standing at the man's elbow, Warren declared this was a flat-out lie and demanded to speak to the lawyer again. This was denied.

(Later he was permitted to speak on the phone to SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes and then to make another phone call.)

Warren was then offered a choice. Stay in detention over the weekend and then see a judge, or agree to another determination, by a different agent, of his right to enter.

This new round was the pretext for further harassment and victimization, culminating in the strip search.

After awhile, Warren was told that because of "computer problems" it would take too long to complete the check and he would be returned to the United States.

He was then taken to the departure area for a 5:30 p.m. flight. There, U.S. Customs Service agents joined with the Canadians in harassing and abusing him. (At one point Warren overheard a Canadian agent telling one of the U.S. people that he was an SWP leader.)

Hassling by the U.S. and Canadian agents continued until the plane took off without him.

He was taken back to the detention cell and subjected to political questioning. "What are you doing in Canada? Do you have a branch here? Are you trying to recruit people here?"

Brought back to the departure area for a later flight, there was renewed harassment

and threats by U.S. and Canadian agents.

This culminated with a U.S. agent inquiring — in a voice loud enough for the other departing passengers to hear — "What did you find on him, a kilo?" When Warren challenged this, the agent backed off. But the damage was done.

With this provocative attempt to smear Warren as a drug dealer, he was permitted to board the plane, which took him to New York.

The action of Canadian immigration was a serious enough assault on Warren's rights. U.S. complicity lends even more gravity to what was done.

Warren said that Leonard Boudin, attorney for the Socialist Workers Party, was taking the initial step of sending a letter to U.S. and Canadian immigration officials, demanding a full explanation.

Warren was scheduled to return to Canada September 24 to establish that his legal rights will be respected — including his right to enter Canada on the same basis as any other U.S. citizen. He was to be accompanied by John Studer, executive director of the Political Rights Defense Fund, and by a Canadian attorney.

A delegation of concerned Canadian citizens planned to meet Warren at the port of entry and a press conference was slated to focus on what had happened and to help insure there will be no repetition.

Warren plans to meet with several members of Canada's Parliament and others to inform them of what had happened and to enlist their support in the matter.

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Nicaragua's vice-president: a graceful storyteller

BY JON HILLSON

Stories, by Sergio Ramírez. Readers International, London and New York City, 1986. 118 pages. \$7.95.

Best known as the vice-president of Nicaragua's Sandinista government, Sergio Ramírez at one time gave more thought to literature than revolution.

An accomplished and able writer as a youth, he participated in the struggles of his generation against the Somoza family dynasty. But Ramírez took his sympathies for the Sandinistas to Germany, where he was

BOOK REVIEW

working as a professional writer in the early 1970s. His first novel had been published to acclaim, along with a number of short stories.

But something happened.

In 1974 the Sandinistas raided the home of Chema Castillo — a member of Somoza's inner circle — during an opulent Christmas party, vowing to leave the house and hostages only when their *compañeros* in the dictator's dungeons were freed.

The action — and the release of the political prisoners — electrified Nicaragua, and Sergio Ramírez.

"I decided to cut short what might have been my career as a writer," he explained once in an interview, "because I felt that the FSLN was embarking on a new stage in the struggle."

Ramírez returned to Nicaragua to join and work with the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) shortly thereafter. From then on, his life became the revolution. He is today a recognized leader of the FSLN. Ramírez came to look at literature "with great nostalgia."

"I try," he stated, "to keep my sensibility as a writer alive, like someone keeping his pencils sharpened."

Now, U.S. readers can see what he crafted with those pencils, in the 1960s and 70s, before the triumph of the Nicaraguan revolution, and, fortunately, afterwards as well.

Because, to his own surprise, Ramírez did discover the time to write again.



Sergio Ramírez

Militant/Jon Hillson

The eight stories cover 18 years in Ramírez's life. In them, Ramírez the writer becomes nothing less than a graceful storyteller, whose voice, if anything, has become richer, more delicate, and more attuned to detail.

But even as a youth, in "Charles Atlas Also Dies," written in 1967, Ramírez shows his gift for irony. He does not preach in this tale of a Nicaraguan youth living under Marine occupation during the U.S. war against

Nicaragua's national hero, Augusto César Sandino. The youth's soldier friend enrolls him in the famous Charles Atlas body-building course. He wins a trip to the United States and insists on seeing this epitome of musculature, only to receive an amazing surprise.

In "A Bed of Bauxite in Weipa," Ramírez ranges from the traditional narrative to the sweep and intensity of "magical realism" — the lush images and bold metaphors pioneered by Gabriel García Márquez.

He is a master of bitter satire in "Nicaragua is White," the story of what happens when Nicaragua's "boss" learns from a lowly meteorologist that it will snow in that tropical nation. A companion piece, "To Jackie, with all our Heart," describes the frenzy into which the Nicaraguan elite are driven when they think Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis is supposed to visit the country.

In both stories, Ramírez effortlessly raises to the level of art the exposure of a decadent, ignorant tyrant and the rich who cling to him hoping to appear as the sophisticated ladies and gentlemen in the miniature Miami they try to create in Nicaragua.

In the "Perfect Game," written in 1985, Ramírez writes about a special baseball game, a Nicaraguan father, and his son, a pitcher. It is a subtle story, crafted without an ounce of clutter and penned with gentle love for the people in it. If you get to Nicaragua and see the able young professionals who make up the country's national league — and play its national pastime with passion and skill — this story will be all the richer.

Ramírez had thought that with his immense duties, in the midst of helping to lead a nation at war, he'd never be able to write again.

"I think," he stated several years ago, "that if I went back to writing tomorrow, I would still be the same writer — with a respect for his craft, with respect for the blank page."

Half true. There's a great respect for the craft, for the blank page: elegant writing, wit and style, no bombast, no moralizing.

But the Sergio Ramírez who writes the newest of these stories and has finished his second novel is not the same writer he once was.

He is better.

Burkina Faso announces anti-apartheid conference

The following is the text of a September 8 press release issued by Burkina Faso's United Nations mission. It concerns a pan-African anti-apartheid conference planned for October in that West African country. For further information, contact M. Mounoubai at: Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations, 115 E. 73rd St., New York, N.Y. 10021, (212) 288-7515.

Increased involvement by the peoples of Africa and other parts of the world in the international movement to isolate the racist apartheid regime of South Africa will be the central theme of a conference that will take place October 8-11 in the West African country of Burkina Faso.

The conference is being hosted by the government of Burkina Faso, with the support of the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid. It will be held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso's capital. Participants will include representatives of anti-apartheid movements, peace associations, youth and women's groups, trade unions, and other organizations, as well as prominent figures in the international struggle against apartheid.

Emphasizing the particular responsibility of the African peoples themselves in the elimination from their continent of the racist and barbaric system of apartheid, most of the invited guests will come from countries throughout Africa, including representatives of the South African and Namibian liberation movements. Leaders and figures from the U.S. and European anti-apartheid movements, and several members of the U.S. Congress, have also been invited to take part.

The idea for the conference originated during a pan-African film festival held in Ouagadougou in February. Among the participants in that festival were several South African exiles, as well as other activists in the anti-apartheid and antiracist movements. They issued a declaration calling for increased moral and material support to the southern African liberation movements and new steps to mobilize public opinion against apartheid within Africa and internationally.

"Throughout the world," the signers of

the declaration affirmed, "more and more voices are being raised each day to condemn this anachronistic and tragic barbarism, to demand the isolation of this regime and an end to apartheid. In this battle, the African continent's action is today decisive."

The signers included Lionel Ngakane, a film director and member of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa; Breyten Breytenbach, a well-known South African poet who spent seven years in jail there for his anti-apartheid activities; Harlem Désire of S.O.S. Racism, an organization in France that is fighting against racist persecution in that country; and leaders of Burkina Faso's own anti-apartheid organization, MOBRAP.

Responding to this appeal, President Thomas Sankara of Burkina Faso agreed to host the anti-apartheid conference, which has come to be known as the Bambata Anti-apartheid Forum. It is named in honor of the South African chief, Bambata, who was beheaded by the South African au-

thorities in 1906 for leading an armed rebellion against colonial rule.

Although Burkina Faso is a poor country, with few financial resources, its willingness to host the conference reflects the importance it accords to the struggle against apartheid — one of the key questions facing the entire African continent. One of Ouagadougou's central avenues has been named in honor of imprisoned ANC leader Nelson Mandela, mass anti-apartheid demonstrations have been staged there, and in May 1986 anti-apartheid activists held a conference in Ouagadougou on sanctions against South Africa.

Most recently, in July, following the historic meeting in Dakar, Senegal, between leaders of the ANC and a delegation of white South Africans opposed to apartheid, President Sankara met with the delegates to that meeting upon their subsequent visit to Ouagadougou. Among the participants in the Dakar and Ouagadougou meetings was Breyten Breytenbach, one of the initiators of the upcoming conference.



Militant/Ernest Harsch

President Thomas Sankara is hosting meeting.

'Hurricane' Carter wins another round in court

BY SAM MANUEL

NEW YORK — A federal appeals court in Philadelphia has rejected a motion to reinstate the triple-murder conviction of Rubin "Hurricane" Carter and John Artis. Carter, a former middleweight boxing contender, was framed up and convicted in 1967 along with Artis for the murder of three whites in a Patterson, New Jersey, bar.

The fatal shooting of the three took place in the midst of the 1966 mass rebellion by Blacks in Patterson against cop violence and racist oppression. In the trial, the prosecution argued that Carter and Artis, both Black, had killed the whites out of racial revenge for the murder of a Black bar owner by a white earlier that day.

The case was reopened in 1974 after two key prosecution witnesses, Alfred Bello and Arthur Bradley, recanted their testimony placing Carter and Artis at the scene of the murders. Bello and Bradley, both white, were caught burglarizing a factory near the bar on the night of the shootings. They

later testified that cops had pressured them to lie.

In 1976 the New Jersey Supreme Court threw out the 1967 conviction; but Carter and Artis were again convicted in the retrial.

Public outrage continued to grow against this injustice. A broad defense campaign was organized that won the support of such prominent individuals as Muhammad Ali, Bob Dylan, Jesse Jackson, and Norman Mailer. Artis was paroled in 1981, after 15 years in prison.

Carter was freed and Artis released from parole on Nov. 8, 1985, when U.S. District Court Judge H. Lee Sarokin overturned their convictions citing "racial prejudice." Carter had served 19 years in prison.

In his 70-page ruling the judge pointed out, "Underlying the prosecutor's theory and summation is the insidious and repugnant argument that this heinous crime is to be understood and explained solely because the petitioners are Black and the victims are white" and "without this unaccept-

able assumption, the prosecution's theory of racial revenge becomes a thin thread of largely irrelevant evidence and impermissible inferences."

In appealing Judge Sarokin's decision, Passaic County Acting Prosecutor John Goceljak argued that the judge had "slanted and distorted views of the case" and had committed a "terrible injustice" by freeing Carter and Artis.

Lawyers for Carter and Artis reiterated their case that the prosecution withheld the results of the lie-detector test that would have shown Alfred Bello lied during testimony; Carter and Artis did not fit witnesses' description of the gunmen; witnesses could not agree on whether Carter's car resembled the one used by the killers; and that the ammunition found in Carter's car may have been planted by the police.

It is unclear whether this decision will finally end the injustice suffered by Carter and Artis. The prosecution had earlier stated that if the appeals court did not reinstate the convictions it would go to the Supreme Court.

Sandinista discusses new challenges

FSLN must involve 'unconvinced' workers and peasants in political life

As part of implementing the Guatemala accords, the Nicaraguan government is preparing to relax restrictions on civil and democratic rights that were imposed as the U.S.-run contra war escalated.

The Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) has begun to project greater participation and initiative by workers and peasants in all aspects of social and political life, whether or not they agree with the Sandinistas politically. The FSLN has also pointed out that if bosses, landlords, and ultraleft opponents of the FSLN have more freedom to present their views, FSLN cadres will need to sharpen their own political arguments on the big policy issues before the revolution.

The article by Gioconda Belli printed below is part of the FSLN discussion on how to move forward in this new period. She raises the need to correct weaknesses in the FSLN's work that developed under the pressure of the war and as relatively inexperienced cadres had to take on major responsibilities in leading the revolution.

Belli is a prominent Nicaraguan poet and frequent contributor to the FSLN daily *Barricada*. Her article was published in the September 12 issue of *Barricada*. The translation and subheads are by the *Militant*.

* * *

They are neither Sandinistas nor opponents. They are a sector of the population that consider themselves passive observers of the political activity of others. This sector — whose size is difficult to measure — wants to "live and work in peace"; politics "doesn't interest them."

They see themselves almost as victims, continuing to live without having anything to do with "those up there." They take refuge in apathy, with a feeling of powerlessness, as if "there's nothing they can do anyway."

For many in this sector, the revolution has been "a disappointment." It did not solve the problems it was supposed to solve, and it brought new ones. "We have gained nothing," they say honestly. Some of those who had great expectations bitterly criticize government management. They do not understand (nor should they understand) why some resources are badly used. They resign themselves to this situation because the opposition does not seem to offer an alternative, and because they are not counterrevolutionaries.

And yet, many people who today swell the ranks of this indifferent, apathetic sector participated in the insurrection, even if only on a small scale, even if all they did was take coffee to the trenches.

In my opinion, this is objectively a sector that requires motivation, arguments, examples, and a new type of communication from us. It is not at all a sector to be ignored. In many cases, I would say, we ourselves pushed them into apathy with authoritarian attitudes, rhetoric, and even incorrect ways of practicing Sandinism.

Ability to persuade

One of the characteristics that won the FSLN the massive support of the population was precisely its ability to persuade the people that the revolutionary struggle was just and could win.

However, with the revolutionary victory, due to the very pressures of reality as we began the construction of a new society requiring profound changes, a large number of Sandinistas approached these tasks by appealing to those comrades who had "political consciousness."

The work of persuasion, education, training, and convincing that made it possible to develop comrades with "political consciousness" was neglected in the case of those who did not have the same level of understanding and commitment, even if they showed enthusiasm for the revolutionary tasks.

In some cases, it reached the point of demanding that comrades who had just begun to participate in revolutionary struggle

have the attitudes and styles of work of party cadres. In other cases, "groups of the enlightened" were formed that limited the more active participation of those who did not have a high enough level.

Another phenomenon that arose was the desire to win over those who were less convinced by citing authorities or by dismissing their concerns with rhetorical language, full of adjectives but lacking in content, and supported by the notion of an almost religious "truth."

In this sense, we must recognize that there are "apathetic" comrades who have been true heroes, stoically putting up with orientations in their workplaces that were confused or ineffective, backed up by "revolutionary" language.

While we shouldn't attribute all the responsibility to ourselves, we Sandinistas must recognize that we have not had the patience with this sector that the old Sandinistas had with us.

Today, we are discussing and trying to define our concept of "democracy." It seems to me very important that we raise the necessity of once again winning the affection and respect of that sector of the population that "doesn't want to get involved in politics," but that, whether they are openly critical or simply remain quiet, have contributed to the advance of the revolutionary process with their work or their sacrifices, consciously or with resignation.

We have a battle to win

We Sandinistas have a battle to win among these comrades, but not with long

speeches or tired rhetoric. Fundamentally, [this means] making them see that the revolution is neither sectarian nor closed; that in this country, everyone has something to contribute; and that we are prepared to continue winning our role as the vanguard, acknowledging the errors that we have committed, and with their collaboration, correcting those that we can correct.

Within this "apolitical" sector, there are some who, although they are proletarians or of humble origin, are saving up to leave the country and seek their fortune elsewhere. One of their reasons, besides the economic ones, is that "there is no place for them here." They think that if they are not slogan-chanting and speech-making Sandinistas, there is no room for them in the revolution. They feel left out.

I think that we as the FSLN have a certain responsibility to all these people. While it is certainly natural for the classes accustomed to ruling to leave the country, fearful of the scent of the masses, it is not natural for comrades of the dispossessed classes to abandon the revolution, which was made for them.

One of the responsibilities and objectives of the revolutionary democracy that we want to deepen is reinvolving these people in exercising a political life where they feel themselves participants and where their voice, their criticisms, and their suggestions are heard. To do this, it is necessary to revise our methods and styles of work and not take the "easy way out" of preaching to those who are already convinced.

Nicaragua takes new steps on accords

Continued from front page

tion points, and they will fight only if attacked.

The official communiqué said that "these unilateral actions will create favorable conditions so that representatives of the National Reconciliation Commission (CNR) and/or local peace commissions can inform the people and the contra forces of the content of the Guatemala accords" and the steps taken so far to implement them.

"The presence of representatives [of the commissions] will make possible exploring the willingness of the contra leaders to accept a cease-fire and, if this response is

positive, work out the procedure to extend it," the statement said.

Ortega explained that the government "aimed at achieving a complete cease-fire throughout the country." He urged Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, CNR president and supporter of the contras, "to participate actively in these initiatives."

Obando, speaking at a CNR press conference a few hours later, had no comment on what role he would play. Asked about the government's decision to allow Radio Católica to reopen, he said, "It looks good to me." The demand to reopen *La Prensa* and Radio Católica have been major propaganda themes used by Reagan, Obando, and others to justify the contra war against Nicaragua.

Bishops challenge gov't initiatives

On September 17 the Catholic hierarchy of Nicaragua issued a public statement aimed at weakening the impact of the Guatemala accords and the steps Nicaragua has already taken. The message was written to appeal especially to mothers of soldiers and those with family members in the contras.

The bishops demanded that the government end the military draft, and that contra leaders should be able to participate in the national dialogue scheduled to begin here October 5. They called for releasing all contras and ex-members of the Somoza dictatorship's National Guard who are now serving prison terms in Nicaragua. The message also attacked the local peace commissions, claiming that they were "separate from if not in conflict with the CNR," and that they "seek only the surrender and disarming of isolated individuals."

The hierarchy's statement was printed in full in the Sandinista daily *Barricada* and the daily *El Nuevo Diario*, and was widely reported on radio here. President Ortega, speaking at a Face-the-People meeting September 19, answered some of the points raised in the message. He added that even though the statement "did not necessarily correspond with the Guatemala accords or with the point of view of large sectors of the Nicaraguan population," the bishops were free to speak out using "the right that all Nicaraguans have to express themselves freely."

Meanwhile, foreign ministers of the five

Central American nations, the eight Latin American countries that make up the Contadora Group and its support group, and representatives of the United Nations and the Organization of American States met in Managua September 17-18. Together, they make up the two international commissions created by the Guatemala accords to oversee and verify their implementation. The Guatemala accords were signed by the presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

In the discussions, only Nicaragua could point to significant steps taken to fulfill the accords. After two days of meetings, the foreign ministers reported that they had agreed to establish several subcommittees to discuss details of the accords, and that they would meet again October 27-28.

Contra attacks continue

Since the accords were signed August 7, fighting has continued in the north and central regions of Nicaragua, although at a lesser intensity than during the first half of 1987. First Vice-minister of the Interior Luis Carrión told reporters that the contras had pulled some of their forces out of Nicaragua to rest and resupply in their base camps in Honduras.

Nonetheless, the Sandinista People's Army has reported almost daily engagements with the contra forces.

On September 10 there were four engagements, with 15 contras killed. September 13-17 there were at least eight engagements, and on September 18, six. In one of the latter confrontations, the army captured a U.S.-made Redeye surface-to-air missile, the third taken from the contras in the past two months.

Contra attacks continue to single out civilian targets.

On September 8 the mercenaries attacked the settlement La Patriota in northern Nicaragua, killing nine peasants and destroying 11 homes.

On September 10 they ambushed a civilian truck near Acoyapa, wounding three people.

On September 11 contras attacked the El Achiot cooperative, killing one peasant, wounding six, and destroying three houses.

On September 15 they blew up a passenger bus near La Libertad in central Nicaragua, killing one person and injuring 11.

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The September issue features a news analysis of the Central America peace accords recently signed by Nicaragua and four other governments in the area.

This agreement is Nicaragua's biggest diplomatic victory in years against Washington's contra war. It stipulates that by November 7, all aid to "irregular" military forces in Central America is to end.

This means Washington would have to end its lifeline to the contras. The agreement, which Nicaragua has begun to implement, has sharpened the debate in U.S. ruling circles over the contra war.

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Maine paperworkers resist takeback demands

Continued from front page

shipyard in Bath. Those workers were forced to end their strike by accepting a contract with big concessions.

The second was the 1986 strike by 1,180 members of UPIU Local 900 at the Boise Cascade paper mill in Rumford, which lasted 11 weeks. Boise Cascade hired not one, but three scab-herding outfits, including B.E. & K. Construction, the same strike-breakers now employed by IP.

Although only a few union members crossed the picket line, the company hired close to 350 scabs. When the local members decided they would have to accept the company's demands and go back in, they took important wage and benefit cuts. The local is still fighting to get 122 union members their jobs back.

These setbacks were close to home for the Jay strikers. They have also lived through the long period of attacks and concessions that workers throughout the country have experienced during the past decade. And this includes the concessions on wages, benefits, and work rules that the UPIU itself made to the big paper companies, starting in the late 1970s, in the face of corporate poor-mouthing and threats of plant closures and job losses.

This year, however, IP is getting a different response to its takeback demands. Local 14, in coordination with the other IP locals whose contracts expire around the same time, has given a resounding no to IP's challenge.

Union members' reaction to the setbacks at the Bath Iron Works and Boise Cascade and several other mills where paperworkers' locals have been forced to make new concessions, has not been discouragement. Rather, they are convinced that things that were learned the hard way in these other situations do not have to be repeated at Jay.

Pete Bernard, who heads up the media committee for the strike, explained, "We watched and learned from other strikes. We've gotten help from the International union. And lots of advice and help from the Boise Cascade local."

Jay workers are quick to point out that Local 900 members came over and helped Local 14 get ready for the fight they were heading into.

Company demands

On June 12, 92 percent of the members voted to reject the company's offer, and on June 16 the strike began.

The company's demands center on four issues:

- An end to premium pay for Sunday work.

For years, union members have received double-time pay for working Sundays. This was given by the company in exchange for the union's agreement to run the mill around the clock, seven days a week — a schedule the unions resisted for a long time. Now, workers are in the mill an average of 39 out of 52 Sundays.

Steve Gould, a young worker with seven years in the mill, told me, "Our fight is 100 percent in the right. They want us to tighten our belts and give up our Sunday pay. It's wrong. Sunday is a special day." This sentiment is echoed by many other workers. "If the company doesn't want to pay double time for Sunday, fine, then let them shut the mill on Sundays, and we'll spend them with our families."

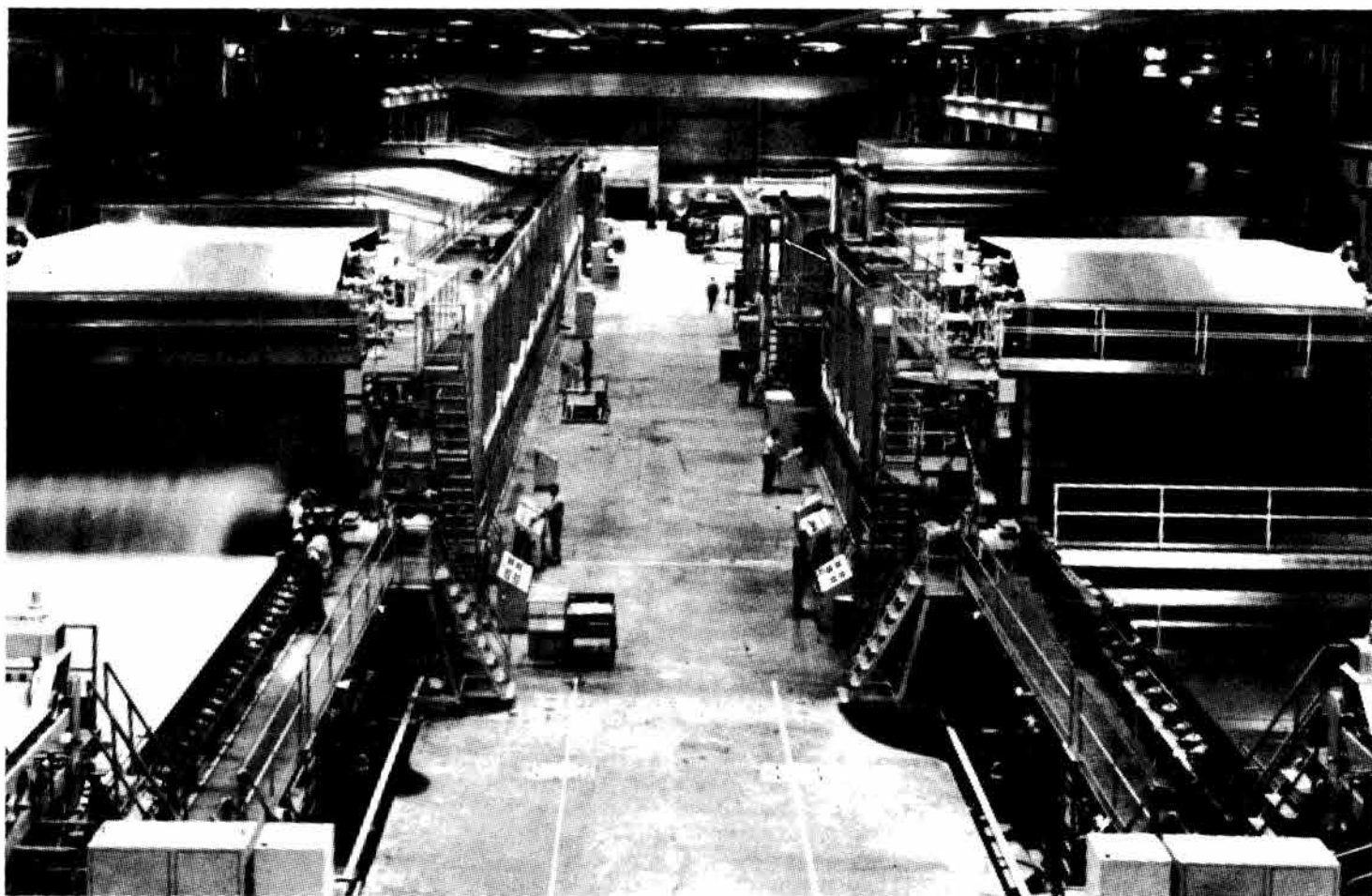
Sunday premium pay accounts for 10 to 12 percent of many workers' average yearly wage. Thus, IP's claim that they are not asking for a wage cut is simply a lie. The bonuses the company is willing to give for two years if this concession is accepted will not make up for the long-term loss of premium pay.

- Elimination of Christmas as a shut-down holiday.

The company used to shut the mill down for a number of holidays — Easter, Christmas, July 4th, and a few others. Now only Christmas remains as a day when the mill is closed, and IP wants to get rid of that.

- Subcontracting of some existing jobs to outside companies.

- Implementation of "Project: Productivity."



Paper machines at International Paper's Androscoggin Mill in Jay, Maine. Company's attempt to combine jobs increases safety hazards for paperworkers.

This is by far the biggest concession being demanded by IP. If implemented, this scheme would reduce the work force in the mill by hundreds of jobs; cut the number of departments from 22 to 7; cut the number of workers assigned to many operations; require workers to be able to do any job in their "team"; require production workers to carry out maintenance work; require maintenance workers to do a variety of jobs; and so on.

Workers who can't qualify for all the jobs they'll be required to do will be bumped back into a labor pool, regardless of seniority.

Local members point out that workers with physical disabilities — whose backs have been strained by years of work in the mill, or whose lungs are now bad — will be pushed down into the labor pool.

For example, Pete Bernard explained, on a given paper machine, there might be five regular jobs: a machine tender at the front or "wet" end of the machine where the pulp comes in; a back tender at the other end where the dry, formed paper is wound onto rolls; and three helpers. Under the new plan, there would only be four positions on the machine, and everyone would have to know all four jobs.

Sitting around the phone table in the busy union hall, a group of workers were eager to explain what Project: Productivity would mean for safety in the mill.

Brenda, who has worked in the mill four years, says the mill is already very unsafe, and this will make it worse. "The jobs change every day — the machine, the stock, the chemicals. You can't just walk up and start doing any job. Now, when your mate [the person on the next shift who does your job] relieves you, you have to explain what's going on, if you're having trouble with the machine. Even minute changes that you're not aware of can get you killed."

Steve Gould added that in the wood room, where logs are reduced to a mass of chips before being made into pulp, "even a minor mistake can leave you crippled or dead."

There are other safety problems in the mill as well, such as exposure to chemicals that are used throughout the papermaking process.

In describing a recent chemical leak that exposed a number of workers to fumes that the company claimed were harmless, Steve Gould said, "It's like nuclear testing and Agent Orange and everything else they dump on us. When I asked them, they said there's 'no specific data' on the chemical. So how do they know there's no long-term effects?"

It should be added that many papermill workers are forced to work a tremendous amount of overtime. If your mate doesn't come in to relieve you, the company sim-

ply makes you work for eight more hours.

IP has already implemented Project: Productivity in some of its mills in the South.

Solidarity with paperworkers

Since the strike began over three months ago, it has become a crusade for working people throughout Maine, especially among other paperworkers.

On August 1 and Labor Day, rallies of thousands of workers from around the state were organized to show support for the strikers. Every Wednesday night mass meetings are held in Jay. Strikers, their families and friends, other community supporters, and visitors from other towns and unions attend to hear and discuss reports on developments in the strike, and to present donations.

The union hall is a bustling organizing center for the strike, and there's a steady stream of people going in and out all day. Many of the strikers' spouses are involved — handling the phones, staffing the picket lines during meetings, and helping to organize the food and clothing banks.

The job bank is especially important. Hundreds of strikers have gotten temporary jobs through the job banks, many in construction. This has not only relieved some immediate financial problems; it also helps make sure that no other union members cross the picket line out of financial desperation. (To date, only 37 local members — known by the strikers as "superscabs" — have gone into the mill. No more have crossed the picket line in the last six weeks.)

Bernard Boivin, better known as "Nookie," has worked in Jay IP mills for 27 years. He helps organize the job banks. He described how the workers look out for each other. "Sometimes someone will come to me and say that so-and-so's getting ready to cross. I always keep a few jobs set aside for them. One member was being pushed by his wife, who had a new baby. We made sure they got a job. We've gotten jobs for some of the wives too."

Celina Gay, who is married to a Local 14 member and is active in the strike, said, "The job bank is a vital necessity to keep guys from crossing the line. You know, you see at the [Wednesday mass] meetings, a few people just sit there. They don't applaud. They don't stand up. So you wonder if they're thinking of crossing."

Shop stewards call the workers they represent every week to see if they need help with any problems.

The striking locals won a big victory August 12 when the State of Maine ruled they were eligible for unemployment benefits.

Other unions in Maine have donated more than \$150,000 to the strike. And \$11,000 a month comes from the Boise Cascade local.

UPIU members around the country are donating \$10 a month to help all the locals in the coordinated bargaining group.

Strikers are fighting IP's disregard for environmental protection, which has gotten worse since the strike began. The most serious incident occurred on August 30 when millions of gallons of "black liquor" — the industrial waste produced by cooking wood chips into pulp — was poured into the Androscoggin River. Local 14 demanded that the state close the mill.

Local members have traveled to IP mills in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, and Pine Bluff, Arkansas, to show solidarity and learn about the conditions these workers are facing.

IP has hired B.E. & K. Construction and hundreds of scabs from other parts of Maine. Early in the strike a court granted IP's request for an injunction restricting the number of pickets at the mill gates. So every day hundreds of strikers and strike supporters gather down the road at the morning and evening shift changes to confront the scabs as they leave and enter the mill. A local store owner lets the union use his property for this daily demonstration of the strike's strength, so to date the authorities have been unable to stop it.

IP claims that the mill is running at 90 percent capacity. The strikers, who can get an idea of what's really coming out of the mill, say it's much less. One trucker, in fact, stopped and showed the workers what he was carrying — instead of the usual 30 rolls, there were only five or six.

IP says that the scabs it has hired are permanent replacements. For the union, this is perhaps the most important issue. As Peter Bernard explained, "We have to get agreement to get the replacement workers out first, before we get back in. We learned that from the Boise Cascade strike."

As the weeks have passed, support for the strike has deepened throughout the state, and it's beginning to be known more widely. This opens up the possibility for broader solidarity with the strike, as workers in other unions and in other parts of the country hear about the UPIU's fight against concessions.

The Jay strikers, their families, and supporters exude an optimism and confidence that is catching. They're conscious that they're fighting not just for themselves but for their children, and for other workers who are trying to find a way to resist the bosses' offensive.

Brent Gay, who has worked in the mill for many years along with others in his family, told me, "At a certain point, what do you have to lose? You have to fight. Other workers can see that these demands for concessions are a trend, and it's coming their way. If we win, it will be better for them too."

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Central American Peace Plan. Speaker: Heather Randle, spent three months traveling throughout Central America, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Birmingham City Council, member of the Young Socialist Alliance and United Steelworkers of America. Sat., Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

ARIZONA

Phoenix

Socialist Campaign Rally. Speakers: Bernie Senter, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Phoenix; Carolyn Lowery, Phoenix City Council District 8 candidate, New Alliance Party; Pablo Otero, Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 26. Reception, 6 p.m.; rally, 7 p.m. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (602) 279-5850.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Watsonville: How the Strike Was Won. Speaker: Carlos Hernández, leader of the 1985-87 strike at Watsonville Canning, member of Teamsters Local 912. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

San Diego

The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop. A review of the historic achievements of the Grenada revolution and the political legacy of its leader. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. 2803 B Street. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (619) 234-4630.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Central America Peace Accords. Speakers from the Nicaraguan embassy, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), National Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala, and Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 26, dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2, \$3 for dinner. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

Pittsburgh march

Continued from back page

from Poland, Ireland, Italy, and elsewhere, to divide us against one another.

"The UMW learned early that unionization was the only way to stop this — all getting together to fight the real enemy, the operators." The union pledged its continued support.

As backing for the march grew, city officials moved to indict four of the 15 thugs who attacked Jackson. The daily *Post Gazette* urged the mayor to support the march. The mayor refused to attend, but issued a statement against racist violence.

Asked what the coalition plans now, Thomas said it will continue to push for a federal investigation into racist acts in the city and for the prosecution of all those who attacked Jackson, her family, and friends.

MINNESOTA

Austin

Nicaraguan Revolution Pushes Forward — New Rights for Indians and Blacks. Speakers: Bill Means, executive director of American Indian Movement, leader of International Indian Treaty Rights Council; Vernon Bellecourt, co-founder of American Indian Movement. Sat., Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

St. Paul

Educational Series on Cuba. An eight-part series of classes held on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

Marcus Garvey: A Fighter for Black Rights. Speakers: Mahmoud El-Kati, History Department, Macalester College; August Nimtz, professor of political science, University of Minnesota. Sat., Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

Kansas City

No Contra Aid! A panel discussion on the Central America peace plan. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m. 4725 Troost. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (816) 753-0224.

St. Louis

U.S. Constitution: For Working People or the Rich? A panel discussion on workers' and farmers' struggles for constitutional, democratic, and political rights. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 26, 7 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

U.S. Out of the Persian Gulf! Speakers: Michael Carter, codirector of Region 2 of Nebraskans for Peace; Lee Oleson, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Film: Global Assembly Line. A documentary filmed in garment shops and electronics factories in the United States, Mexico, and the Philippines. Sat., Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

Ben Linder Peace Tour. Speaker: John Linder, brother of the U.S. engineer murdered by contras in Nicaragua; Lois Wessel, a U.S. volunteer who worked with Ben Linder in Nicaragua. Sun., Oct. 4, 2 p.m. Paul Robeson Center, 350 Martin Luther King Blvd., Rutgers University. Donation requested. Sponsor: Ben Linder Peace Tour. For more information call (201) 589-4668.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Speak Out Against Attack on Antiwar Veteran Brian Willson. Speakers: Mike Pahias, Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) and striking NABET worker, friend of Brian Willson; Cate Woods, New Jersey Pledge of Resistance; Dave Kline, coordinator of N.J.-N.Y. VVAW; David Rosenfeld, Young Socialist Alliance, recently returned from a brigade in Nicaragua. Translation to Spanish

and French. Fri., Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

OHIO

Cleveland

Farm Workers' Struggle for Union Rights and Their Fight Against Deadly Pesticides. Featuring video *Wrath of Grapes* by the United Farm Workers of America; Speakers: Sharon Streater, organizer, Farm Labor Organizing Committee; Teo Feliciano, associate director of the Commission of Catholic Community Action. Sat., Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2, dinner, \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (216) 861-6150.

OREGON

Portland

The U.S. and Central America: A Conference in the Spirit of Ben Linder. First Congregational Church, SW Park and Madison. Fri., Sept. 25 through Sunday, Sept. 27. Benefit feast with conference speakers, Sat., 6-8 p.m. Donation: \$12-\$30. Proceeds from conference go to the Ben Linder Memorial Fund. Sponsor: Portland Central America Solidarity Committee, others. For more information call (503) 236-7463.

Learning from the Sandinistas and Cuba: Can U.S. Workers Follow the Cuban and Nicaraguan Examples? Speaker: Deborah Higdon, Socialist Workers Party, member of International Association of Machinists Local 63, antiwar activist. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

The Havana Bienal: A Slideshow of Cuban and Nicaraguan Art. Presented by Mike Alewitz, Newark artist and director of Pathfinder mural project. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

TEXAS

Houston

People of the Americas Say No to U.S. War. A panel discussion on the Central America peace accords. Speakers: Jeff Pike, Socialist Workers Party, unemployed chemical worker; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

UTAH

Price

Cuba — A Historic Moment. Speaker: Dave Prince, chairperson, Price Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. 23 S Carbon Ave. Suite 19. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

U.S. Hands Off Iran! A Socialist View of the Iran-Iraq War. Speaker: spokesperson from Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

Speak Out Against Attack on Antiwar Veteran Brian Willson. Speakers: Charlie Litke, Veterans Fast for Peace and friend of Brian

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Grand Opening of Pathfinder Bookstore and Militant Labor Forum. Sat., Oct. 10. Open house and refreshments, noon to 3 p.m. Forums: "Che Guevara, the Cuban Revolution, and Socialism," 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.; "The Assassination of Maurice Bishop, Defeat of the Grenada Revolution, and the U.S. Invasion," 7:30 p.m. Speaker: Steve Clark, author of the "Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop," Socialist Workers Party National Committee. 6826 S Stony Island Ave. Donation: \$2.50 each session. Sponsor: Pathfinder. For more information call (312) 363-7322 or 363-7136.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Central America Peace Accords: a Blow to U.S. War Drive. A panel discussion with Zelmira Garcia, counselor of the Nicaraguan embassy and coordinator for sister city projects between Nicaragua and the United States; Ulises Torres, representative of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador; Mike Shur, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Fri., Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$4. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

Willson; representative from Benjamin Linder Peace Tour; other speakers to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For information call (202) 797-7699.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

Miners' Struggles Span the Globe: South Africa, Britain, Massey, and Canterbury. Speakers to be announced. Sun., Oct. 4, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

Morgantown

Central American Peace Accords: People of the Americas Say No to the U.S. War. A panel discussion. Sat., Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

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WASHINGTON, D.C.: SWP, YSA, 3165 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699, 797-7021.

WASHINGTON: Seattle: SWP, YSA, 5517 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118. Tel: (206) 723-5330.

WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston: SWP, YSA, 116 McFarland St. Zip: 25301. Tel: (304) 345-3040. **Morgantown:** SWP, YSA, 221 Pleasant St. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

WISCONSIN: Milwaukee: SWP, YSA, 4707 W. Lisbon Ave. Zip: 53208. Tel: (414) 445-2076.

Right on — Girls at a South Bend, Indiana, elementary school picketed a boys-only reenactment of the Constitutional Convention. The teacher said girls were excluded to make it authentic and to highlight the fight for women's rights. Responded protest organizer Sarah Rosen, 10, "If they want to teach us about discrimination, why don't they teach us about what happens today?"



Harry Ring

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Hospitality, USA — For the pope's outdoor mass in San Antonio, they floated a giant pancake-shaped helium balloon overhead to shield him from the Texas sun. And in Miami, the cops boasted that security preparations dwarfed their response to the 1980 Black rebellion.

Bon appetit — When the pope flew to Miami, the lunch menu on Shepard I included ham, lobster, caviar, steak or shrimp, cheese, a choice of nine wines, coffee, tea, and brandy. Meanwhile food stamps and welfare checks were late in Miami due to the visit.

Then quit stomping on it — "We should never forget how rare and precious freedom is." — President Reagan.

P.S. — Speaking of R.R., on a recent jazz program, a DJ introduced a Lester Young record with the comment that Billie Holiday had dubbed the great saxophonist, "the Prez." Reflecting a moment, the DJ added, "That was back when it was considered a compliment."

Doesn't realize this is America — "King Juan Carlos of Spain raised eyebrows in Santa Fe, N.M., among the minority 'Anglo' population after saying he wants as many Hispanics as possible invited to his reception here later this month. State Attorney General Hal Stratton said the king's wishes are 'clearly discriminatory' and could violate state law." — News item.

Sleep tight — "WASHINGTON — U.S. nuclear plants recorded 2,957 mishaps in 1986, a slight improvement over the 1985 record." — Associated Press.

Sort of like crack — For VCR and cable channel viewers who can't kick the commercial habit, there's Free-Vees, rent-free video ads. "So far, it's been incredibly successful," a Free-Vee pusher claims.

The Lord giveth . . . — PTL officials indicated that with present hard times, ex-leader Jim Bakker's parents may lose their jobs at the ministry's Heritage USA theme park. They each draw \$17,000 a year as official greeters. Bakker's sister, brother, and sister-in-law have already been laid off.

Just say no — Facing extortion charges, Walter Atlee, a director of California's alcohol and drug abuse program, was ordered into custody when he showed up for his trial three hours late and drunk.

Nonsense — "Money may influence nuclear regulation" — News headline.

Philippine union federations demand wage hike

BY RUSSELL JOHNSON

MANILA, Philippines — In the aftermath of the massive August 26 "people's strike" against the government-imposed increase in the price of petroleum products, the labor movement is pressing forward in a united campaign for an across-the-board wage increase for all workers.

On August 26, in an unusual display of trade union unity, the progovernment Trade Union Congress of the Philippines joined with the May 1 Movement labor federation and other affiliates of the Labor Advisory and Consultative Council in support of a nationwide strike spearheaded by the more than half million jeepney (minibus) drivers. At least 4 million workers, peasants, and operators of small businesses are estimated to have participated in the strike, making it the biggest labor action in recent Philippine history.

Building on this momentum, the Labor Advisory and Consultative Council (LACC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUCP) announced that they had agreed to forge a "technical alliance" to push the government to grant an immediate 10-peso-per-day increase to every worker, as well as to fight on other issues. If President Corazon Aquino's government does not grant this increase, a TUCP spokesperson said, the federation would be prepared to organize more "people's strike" mobilizations similar to those of August 26.

On August 26 the TUCP had urged workers to stay at home and not participate in the mobilizations — mass demonstrations, human roadblocks, etc. — led by the May 1 Movement (KMU). The TUCP's stance undercut the scale of these mass actions to shut down the economy and made it easier for the military to target militant labor leaders for repression.

At least 200 trade unionists and their supporters were arrested August 26 and 27 and KMU leaders were forced into hiding.

KMU General Secretary Bob Ortaliz told the *Militant* that a much larger wage increase was justified but that his union was advocating the 10-peso rise as "an immediate interim measure" to counter arguments that small businesses could not afford to pay an increase.

He pointed to the up to 50 percent salary increase that Aquino promised soldiers following the August 28 military mutiny. "What about other government workers?" he asked.

In June 1987 the average daily wage for nonagricultural workers was about 57 pesos, for plantation workers about 47 pesos, and less than 36 pesos for other agricultural workers. One peso equals about 5 cents. The estimated daily cost of living for the average Filipino family of six was 117.47 pesos as of April 1987.

On September 15 Trade and Industry Secretary Jose Concepcion told the media that the government was considering imposing a five-year ban on all strikes. He claimed that there was a danger the Philippines would otherwise lose foreign investments to its "strike-free" neighbors in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand.

Labor Secretary Franklin Drilon, however, said he opposed the government-imposed strike moratorium as unworkable. Instead, he said, the department was working for a "voluntary agreement" between labor and management on a strike ban. In a September 11 statement the KMU had cited its unequivocal opposition to any proposed strike moratorium because "the workers' basic right to strike cannot be compromised."

Book on Castro launched in Manila

MANILA, Philippines — Pathfinder's latest book, *Fidel Castro's Political Strategy: From Moncada to Victory*, commemorates the 34th anniversary of the attack on the Moncada barracks, led by Fidel Castro, an event that marked the opening of the Cuban revolution.

A meeting to launch the book was held here at the University of the Philippines, organized by the Latin America Forum, a group formed to build solidarity between Filipinos and the peoples of Central and Latin America. More than 100 people attended the July 17 meeting, including leaders of the Peasant Movement of the Philippines and the May 1 Movement, a trade union federation.

Ed Garcia of the Latin America Forum commented on what he saw as the general lessons of the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions. He emphasized that the question in Central America is "not a conflict between East and West, but the quest for a sovereign state in Central America, for national sovereignty."

Amado Rivero from the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples — a non-governmental solidarity organization — explained the significance of the socialist revolution in Cuba and the challenge Cuba faced to "build a new society, a new system."

Making the revolution in Cuba is "voluntary," Rivero explained. "Cuba is not a

consumer society," he said. "Those people who want that kind of society can go to the United States."

Rivero recommended Pathfinder's latest book, which he said explains "why a revolution took place in Cuba and how that revolution was prepared through armed struggle." *Fidel Castro's Political Strategy* consists of an outline by Chilean journalist Marta Harnecker of the development of the July 26 Movement within the unfolding revolution from 1953 to 1959.

Deborah Shnookal, a representative from Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia, described the political thrust of Pathfinder's publishing program as helping to share revolutionary ideas and experiences from around the world and throughout the history of the revolutionary workers' movement.

One of the most interesting contributions to the afternoon's forum was by Felicisimo Patayan, a 70-year-old peasant leader who had visited Nicaragua in 1986. He spoke with great enthusiasm for what Nicaraguan farmers had achieved since the revolution, although he said he had been surprised to learn that there were still many large private landholdings in Nicaragua and that not all peasants' demands for land had been met. Food production, commented Patayan, was still the main problem because of the U.S. government embargo against Nicaragua.



Militant/Russell Johnson

Union-led demonstration in Philippines in February.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE 35¢
Sept. 30, 1977

Political dirty work isn't cheap. In fact, it cost the FBI \$1,683,000 in cash just to pay a portion of the informers it used against the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

One operative collected \$46,383.15 during a seven-year period, taking in \$11,100.00 in just one year.

On September 12 the FBI described its payoffs to informers in answers to questions in the SWP and YSA lawsuit against government harassment.

The new FBI information covers only 309 informers who were actually members of the SWP or YSA between 1960 and 1976.

In addition, the FBI admits it used an informer network of some 1,000 people who were not members.

As might be expected, nearly all the informers worked for cash, not patriotic duty. Of the 309 member-informers only eight were not paid.

All 301 were required to sign statements saying they were not "employees" of the FBI receiving a salary. Instead, they were given cash for expenses and "services." In other words, the money was a reward paid on a piecework basis.

The socialists demanded the information as part of their legal offensive against the government's use of political informers.

The FBI certainly tried to get its money's worth from the informers. The operatives collected files, financial records, personal letters, phone lists — anything they could get their hands on.

THE MILITANT
Published in the Interests of the Working People
Oct. 1, 1962 Price 10¢

(The Cuban missile crisis did not begin until President John Kennedy's speech of

Oct. 22, 1962. The item below refers to events leading up to it.)

President Kennedy is still flirting with war in the Cuban situation. His program of deliberate and calculated measures against Cuba has prevailed against those who are hysterically ranting for immediate blockade or invasion.

Nonetheless, the Kennedy administration is clearly making preparations for a Cuban invasion at some future time. It is right now carrying out dangerous provocations, which risk war, and planning even more dangerous ones. At the same time it is tightening the economic screws on Cuba by increasing pressure on European countries to embargo the island.

A resolution authorizing employment of U.S. military forces against Cuba was adopted in the Senate September 20 by a vote of 86 to 1.

Adlai Stevenson, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, accused Havana of a "campaign of subversion and vituperation against its neighbors in the Western Hemisphere."

The Cuban delegate, Mario Garcia-Inchaustegui, replied: "You say you defend the charter of the United Nations. You tell your aggressive generals, sir, that more than 6 million Cubans will defend the charter with something more than sweet words. We reject your statement as a means of covering up a new large-scale aggression which your country is preparing against our country."

In spite of continued strong Soviet support to Cuba — one of the major factors staying the hand of the Pentagon — preparations for U.S. military intervention have not slackened.

Some pretexts that might serve for sending U.S. armed forces against Cuba were indicated by Secretary of State Dean Rusk in a censored version of his testimony before Senate committees September 17. Rusk said U.S. forces would be used to intercept "Cuban or Soviet arms shipments" to other Latin American countries.

Ford contract: why workers lose

The three-year contract announced by negotiators for Ford Motor Co. and the United Auto Workers September 17 marks a setback for Ford workers, the UAW, and the entire labor movement.

Ford and UAW negotiators portrayed the agreement as a breakthrough.

"Ford employees all over this country should be proud ... of the people who have worked to put this historic document together," declared Ford President Harold Poling.

"We broke a lot of new ground on job security," claimed Stephen Yokich, vice-president of the union's Ford department.

The big-business media chimed in. "The contract represents a continued recovery from concessions made by the union in the early 1980s," the *New York Times* claimed.

This hype and the actual terms of the contract have nothing in common. The 1987 agreement is a takeback pact, a continuation of the concessions that the auto barons have been squeezing out of auto workers since the 1979 agreements with Ford, GM, and Chrysler.

The main selling point of the new contract is the claim that it provides "job security" for the 104,000 Ford workers — down from 190,000 a decade ago.

The UAW says the agreement will bar "virtually all" layoffs except for those caused by a decline in auto sales. A worker whose job disappears for other reasons — speedup or automation, for instance — will supposedly continue to receive their wages from a \$500 million fund set up by Ford, and be provided other work.

When the fund runs out, Ford's contractual obligation ends. That means, as the *Wall Street Journal* pointed out, that "the package could theoretically cover as few as about 3,000 workers." This is some "job security" from a company that has eliminated nearly 90,000 jobs in 10 years.

In exchange, Ford demanded and got official backing from the top union officials for measures that will lead to greater speedup, more hazardous working conditions, and reduction of union rights on the job. The contract recommends that UAW locals agree to fewer job classifications so that workers can be ordered to carry out more than one job; the formation of teams to maximize speedup in the plants; and changes in work rules that will force workers to work harder — and less safely — for the same pay. Such changes would enable Ford to eliminate thousands of jobs.

The contract calls for a 3 percent wage increase in the first year of the three-year pact, and lump-sum payments of 3 percent in the second and third years. The "bonus" scam means that there will be no improvements in base wage and benefits during the second and third years.

A modest inflation rate would swallow the wage increase, lump sums, and more.

The latest concession contract comes as Ford Motor Co., having scored \$3.3 billion in profits last year, is expecting to rake in another \$4 billion this year from the labor of auto workers.

Instead of taking advantage of the employers' profit bonanza to press for better wages and working conditions for all Ford workers, the union officialdom agreed to

trade these off for "job security" for a small layer of auto workers.

This kind of contract has many precedents. After World War II the top officials of the United Mine Workers signed contracts granting the mineowners the right to mechanize the mines in exchange for higher wages and retirement benefits.

There followed a drastic worsening of working and safety conditions, the decline of the union membership from nearly 1 million to about 100,000 in 1969, and a growing attack on the health coverage and pensions of coal miners.

It took a massive upsurge in the coalfields — the Miners for Democracy struggle of the late 1960s and early 1970s — to halt the union's decline and force the employers to slow down their attacks.

In 1960, under the leadership of Harry Bridges, the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, which organizes West Coast dock workers, signed an agreement allowing the employers to introduce mechanical loaders and prepacked containers. In exchange employees got "job security." Under the "Bridges plan," both the number of jobs on the docks and the union membership have steadily declined, and the union has been greatly weakened.

The Ford contract will be no more effective in slowing the attacks on auto workers than the "job security" agreements that other union officials have signed.

General Motors executives are making it clear that they intend to try to take even more from auto workers than Ford did.

Auto workers, like all working people, are at a crossroads. No variation of the Bridges plan is going to advance their interests.

The road forward must begin with the recognition that fighting for the interests of auto workers is inseparably connected with the fight of workers in other industries, both unionized and unorganized. Trading off the rights of lower-seniority auto workers and new generations of workers in hopes of preserving the jobs of a few high-seniority workers, undermines this solidarity and weakens the struggle against the employers.

Solidarity among Ford workers, all auto workers, and all working people is needed to wage an effective fight against the bosses.

A course aimed at rolling back the employers' attacks on the unions includes fighting the two-tier wage setup that is deepening divisions among workers and undermining the unions. It includes fighting to reassert union power over line speed, work rules, safety, and rights on the job. It means putting an end to the 3 million hours of forced overtime that Ford workers put in every month. It means fighting for a shorter workweek with no reduction in pay in order to protect the jobs of present and future auto workers.

Struggles for these goals can help win auto workers some needed improvements in wages and working conditions. They can strengthen GM workers in their contract battle, and Chrysler workers whose pact expires next year. They can give future auto workers a firm union foundation to build on. And they can inspire and win support from all working people.

U.S. aggression against Iran

Continued from front page

violation of international law — like the recent FBI entrapment and kidnapping of a Lebanese citizen on a ship on the high seas. He now faces a show trial on terrorism charges in the United States.

The Pentagon claimed that the Iranian ship was laying mines. Iranian officials deny the charge.

The government of Iraq has been at war with Iran since 1980 when Iraq launched a massive invasion of that country. Soon after, the Iraqis escalated the war by opening attacks on shipping bound to and from Iran. In 1984 Iran began retaliating by attacking ships bound to or from Persian Gulf states that arm or otherwise aid Iraq in the war. (Iraq has no functioning ports of its own.)

While Washington piously denounces Iran for interfering with "freedom of the seas," U.S. officials have been urging the Iraqi regime to step up its attacks on Iranian shipping and other targets. "Our feeling," an administration official told United Press International, "is that we should have hard, continuous daily strikes. Iraq should be out there every day."

Washington has placed Kuwaiti tankers under the U.S. flag and provided them with naval escorts. The Kuwaiti regime has strongly backed the Iraqi government in the war. Washington aimed to provoke a clash with Iran.

The Reagan administration has also been backing up the Iraqi rulers on the diplomatic front. That is the objective of the current drive to get the UN Security Council to vote for an arms embargo against Iran.

Washington's aim is to force an end to the war, which Iranian forces have been winning, on terms that will enable the Iraqi regime, which is growing more shaky, to hold onto power.

The U.S. rulers' ability to carry out this military ag-

gression in the gulf, without provoking massive protest at home or abroad, has emboldened them and their European allies. Washington won some important political cover for its operation when it convinced the French, British, Belgian, and the Dutch governments to send ships to aid the U.S. armada in the gulf.

When President Reagan spoke to the United Nations on September 21, he centered his fire on Iran. But he continued his denunciations of Nicaragua. Washington's operations in the Persian Gulf serve as a reminder that, even as the Central American peace accords are implemented and the contras lose further ground, the U.S. rulers have no intention of leaving Nicaragua — or any other country that refuses to knuckle under — in peace.

Appealing to anti-Iranian chauvinism, Reagan proclaimed that Iran's actions were "symbolic of their barbarism."

But it is Washington's barbarism — and its contempt for human life, the right of nations to self-determination, and international law — that is on display in the Persian Gulf today.

The attack on the Iranian ship, killing of seamen, and hijacking of the ship and surviving crew members is a warning to working people in the United States and around the world of what Washington's war moves in the Persian Gulf hold in store.

The next ship that is sunk may be carrying the U.S. flag. But the U.S. rulers have no more concern for the lives of the thousands of U.S. sailors and pilots they have sent into the region than they do for the Iranians. Washington's war moves have already claimed dozens of lives — beginning with the 37 sailors who were killed when an Iraqi plane fired on the USS Stark.

To stop the carnage, all U.S. and other imperialist forces should be pulled out of the gulf immediately.

What workers won't learn from 'Matewan'

BY DOUG JENNESS

When I turned in my column last week on the film *Matewan*, I had some notes left over on a few points I didn't have space for. In addition, several readers gave me a few more ideas. Altogether it's enough for another column.

Last week I noted that *Matewan* effectively portrayed the very difficult conditions of the coal miners in West

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Virginia in 1920 and the operators' fierce opposition to their efforts to organize a union.

The film shows the miners overcoming the mineowners' efforts to pit the workers against each other and forging an organization based on solidarity.

Despite the film's moving presentation of the class battle in *Matewan*, I think many working people leaving the theater can't help but come away with a sense of futility.

No effective road for winning the strike or advancing the workers' struggle comes through.

The only paths presented seem to be dead ends. On one hand the militant, but inexperienced strikers, angered by the bestiality of the bosses' hired gunmen, take up guns and launch an armed battle. The outcome of this adventure is many casualties among the workers. It ultimately leads to defeat for the strike and the union organizing drive.

The United Mine Workers of America organizer, sent in at the request of the *Matewan* miners, had attempted to counter this by urging the strikers not to be provoked into an armed conflict with the company's hired thugs. On the purely tactical level, his suggestions appear sensible. But in the absence of offering a clear strategy and political perspective for the miners, his proposals came across sounding like a pacifist renunciation of the struggle.

It's not clear from the film what the organizer's politics are. He is identified as a former member of the Industrial Workers of the World, an organization that counterposed constructing one big industrial union to building a mass revolutionary workers' party that could mobilize working people to take political power. The IWW attained its greatest influence in the period before World War I and the October 1917 Russian Revolution.

Many capable revolutionaries from the IWW became communists and helped found the Communist Party in 1919.

The union organizer depicted in the film admits to being a "red" when questioned by miners. But whether he's a member of the newly formed Communist Party is not clear in the film.

If he is, then his passiveness and lack of political perspective is even more striking. He doesn't do what you'd expect an experienced working-class political leader in the labor movement to do. He doesn't explain to the miners how their fight to form a union is connected to the fight of miners throughout the region or to other workers in the country or internationally.

When the frustrated miners tell him that the only thing they can count on is their guns and their own determination, he doesn't respond by pointing to the broader solidarity that can be sought and won from other workers.

It's not clear from the film whether the UMWA nationally is doing anything to scandalize the savagery of the mine operators, including their eviction of miners from their homes. But, it's plain that the UMWA representative doesn't propose that the miners in *Matewan* help conduct such a campaign.

Following the barbaric torture and murder of a young striker, the organizer proposes no mobilization that can draw the strikers, members of their families, and their supporters together to build their own self-confidence and to show their strength and unity to the employers. Instead, we get the funeral at the gravesite followed by the angry miners picking up their guns and shooting it out with the hired thugs.

If, indeed, the organizer is a communist, there's one thing that seems to be unrealistic about his conduct. He doesn't talk informally with the most receptive and most clear-thinking workers about a broader political perspective for working people, including the need to forge a revolutionary workers' party — a communist party.

I don't know whether the organizer in the film is an accurate portrayal of the real-life UMWA organizer sent into *Matewan* in 1920 or whether such an organizer was sent at all. But whether he was or not, the wait-and-see, nonpolitical approach of the film character was not the way the miners in West Virginia or other industrial workers were organized later in the 1930s.

The key victories that spurred the massive drive to organize industrial unions were led by political leaders. In the 1934 Minneapolis Teamster battles, for example, it was revolutionary communists, who mobilized broad social support, including from working farmers. They organized the workers to defend themselves from goon and cop attacks and confidently confront and tactically deal with the capitalist government. The political leadership of the struggle was reinforced by winning many leaders to the communist movement.

Oil worker's proposals for contract negotiations

BY JOEL BRITTON

LOS ANGELES — Officials of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union have been soliciting contract proposals from members who work in the oil industry.

Such input is supposed to be carried to Denver later in September where elected delegates from each oil bargaining unit will meet with the top officials of the union,

UNION TALK

and the bargaining program for 1988 will be announced.

Most oil industry contracts now expire at the same time — January 31 — as major coal mining contracts. Along with the possible merger of the two unions, this has added new urgency to the discussion among workers in this dangerous and profitable industry.

In my local, stewards have passed around a form for members' contract proposals. Here's how I filled mine out:

"Why don't we follow the lead of our United Mine Workers brothers and sisters and organize to win a non-concessionary contract. They showed it could be done in 1984, even as all other unions were taking it in the neck. And they've been successfully beating back the current concession drive of the Western coal companies, including those owned by Big Oil.

"1) *Let's fight to restore the deep wage cuts Chevron and other oil companies imposed for new hires in our last contract two years ago.*

"These cuts of as much as \$3 an hour for first-year trainees were a blow to thousands of workers, including those with considerable experience in the industry who went to work for another company after a refinery shut-down or a personal move.

"In many cases these new workers do basically the same work as those getting full pay, after a brief break-in period, but stay at the lower wage. At some companies, you must complete a three-year training program before you get the full wage.

"Where I work, first-year workers in operations get \$9.32 an hour (as recently as two years ago the rate was \$12.15 an hour for doing exactly the same job). Operators who've finished their three years of training make \$14.48.

"In addition to being unfair to newly hired workers, having such a wide wage gap puts downward pressure on the overall wage structure.

"Management has a new incentive to push out older workers and replace them with cheaper labor power. In some divisions where I work, a third or more of the workers are now trainees. This is due, in part, to turnover among trainees themselves, some of whom can't see exposing themselves to the health and safety hazards of the job for 36 percent less pay.

"Finally, the steeper wage progression hurts our union by deepening the divisions between operator trainees and operators and between mechanic trainees and mechanics in the maintenance division, and cutting across the solidarity we need to resist company attacks on our living standards and working conditions. Company officials indoctrinate new hires with the idea that 'the union' is to blame for the lower wages, even though it was the company that imposed them over the objections of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers bargainers.

"So on this front, the least we should do is mount a campaign, spearheaded by workers stuck at the lower rates, to at least get back to where we were in our last contract.

"2) *Let's fight for wage increases, not bonuses.*

"In our current contract, for the first time, the com-

panies imposed a wage freeze in the first year, and granted only a 2 percent hike in the second. A carefully orchestrated ratification bonus ploy was put over by one company offering a \$300 bonus, which was rejected by the union, followed by a somewhat larger bonus, again rejected, ending with a \$1,000 bonus accepted by the union's national policy committee.

"A bonus is not a wage increase.

"A bonus is a one-time, one-shot payment that is not built into your wages. Even a modest wage increase results in far more return for workers, through straight time pay, month after month and year after year, as well as through overtime pay and benefits calculated on your base rate.

"3) *Let's fight against oil company moves to put narrow profit aims ahead of human needs.*

"Human needs include oil workers' health and safety and environmental concerns, including those of the immediate neighbors surrounding refineries and the more general public.

"We're fighting for these human needs when we oppose company moves to combine jobs in operations or maintenance that will result in inadequate staffing of operating plants or less well-trained mechanics repairing equipment, etc.

"We're fighting for these human needs when we move to curb the use of outside contractor labor not backed up by a strong union agreement.

"And we're fighting for these human needs when we organize to win more of a say over potentially unsafe operations and practices in our plants."

Joel Britton is a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-547 at the Chevron refinery in El Segundo, California.

LETTERS

Union membership

In a front-page article titled "Labor's Turn? Unions May Be Poised To End Long Decline, Recover Some Clout," the *Wall Street Journal* of August 28 reports a turning point in the decade-long drop in union membership in the United States.

"After a 20 percent plunge in union ranks since 1979," the article notes, "some union officials expect 1987 to be the first year in this decade that membership won't drop."

"Indeed, union after union says inquiries from unorganized workers are at the highest rate in years. A Communications Workers official says inquiries have tripled in the past six months. The Steelworkers say that in the Southeast — a traditionally unfriendly territory for unions — workers' requests for organizing help are up fivefold from two years ago."

Among the causes for this recent trend, the article points to several economic and demographic forces: "Corporate costcutting has rattled many workers.

"Both women and minority group members, who are expected to continue entering the work force at a high rate, tend to favor unions.

"Finally, the leveling off of the decline in manufacturing employment . . . has helped labor."

Mehdi Assar
New York, New York

Labor organizing

Readers of the *Militant* may be interested to hear that workers at GTECH Corp., the outfit that runs the California State lottery betting game, may soon vote to be represented by the Communications Workers of America.

Employed by a company that reaps multimillions yearly from lottery games around the world, many GTECH workers earn only \$5 to \$7 an hour.

The company, which is based in Rhode Island, is attempting to force the union to include workers in other "right-to-work" states in the vote on the union. While openly endorsing their employees' right to support the CWA, GTECH has kept an eagle eye on any worker who exercises that right or attends a CWA meeting.

The vote is expected sometime in October after the National Labor Relations Board rules on GTECH's stalling proposals.

Jan Ludovik
Lodi, California

College student

Hello, I am a college student receiving the *Militant*. I enjoy getting and reading this paper.

J.M.
Yellow Springs, Ohio

Best publication

I love your newspaper! It is probably the best publication I've put my hands on. Keep up the good work.

If possible, I would like to see some more small reports on "big" news from Latin American countries other than the usual ones — for example, a small report on the elections in Ecuador: how fair they were, the results, etc.

D.J.
Bowling Green, Ohio

At home and abroad

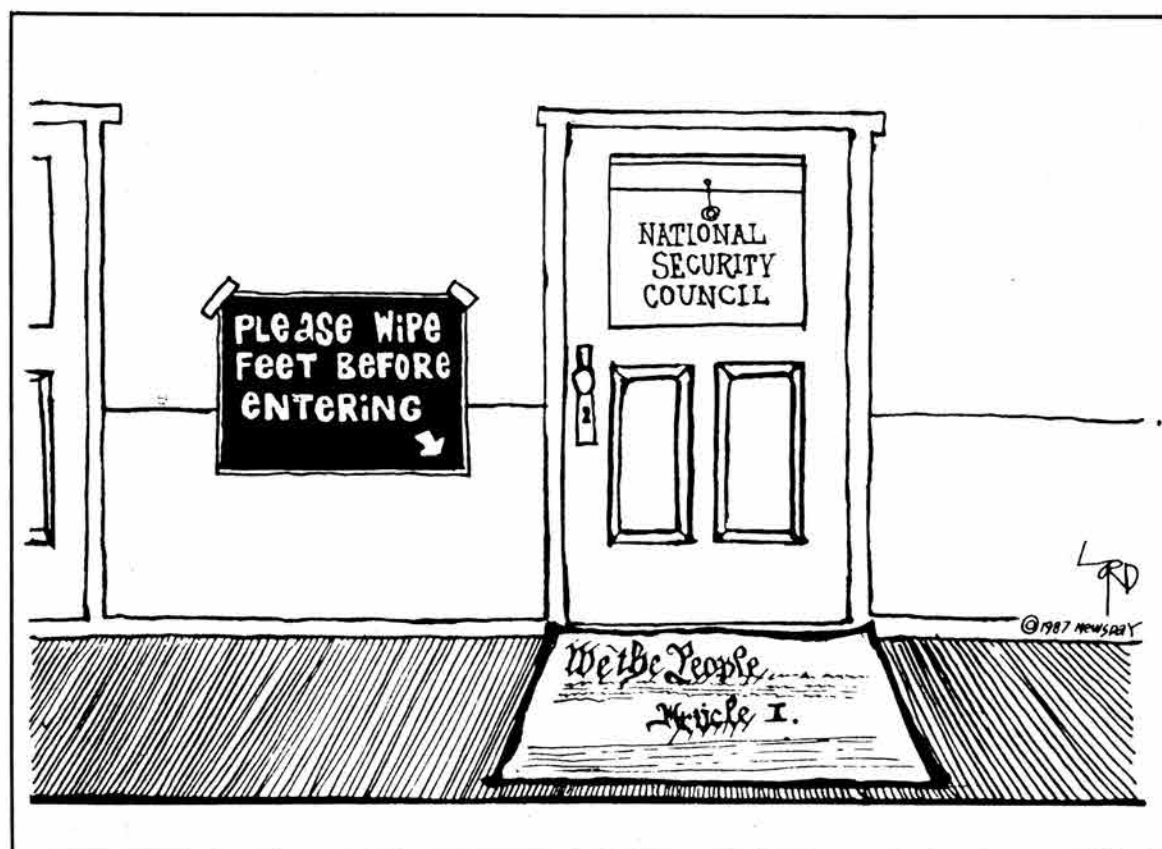
"The U.S. war at home and abroad" is a slogan that was recently illustrated to me very sharply.

On September 14 I attended a political meeting in Atlanta to protest the murder of Eddie Callahan, a young Black man, by Atlanta's police.

Before the meeting began, I showed a copy of the *Militant* to someone, who bought a subscription. Noticing that his last name was Callahan, I asked if he was related to the victim. He replied, "I'm his brother. My brother is with me."

A few weeks ago, John Linder spoke to a meeting here. He is the brother of Benjamin Linder, the American engineer slain by the U.S.-backed contras in Nicaragua. At the end of his speech, John said his brother's name and asked the audience to reply "presente" to demonstrate that Benjamin's spirit is with us, like Eddie Callahan's brother had done.

In order to enforce its system of exploitation and oppression, U.S. imperialism uses hired guns. For Black men in Atlanta, the hired guns take the form of the cops. In



Nicaragua, they are the mercenary contras.

We must demand an end to racist murders by cops and an end to U.S. aid to the contras.

Helen Lowenthal
Atlanta, Georgia

In the monster

Today, I have received my first copy of your newspaper and hope to continue receiving them.

Your newspaper has opened my eyes. I'm Puerto Rican and have lived in the monster for 32 years.

A prisoner
Stormville, New York

Northwest

On Labor Day 150 members and supporters of the International Association of Machinists rallied in front of the Minneapolis — St. Paul airport terminal.

The rally was directed against Northwest Airlines, which is organized by the Machinists. The central demand was for wage parity. Since its merger with Republic last year, Northwest has sought to keep former Republic employees as second-class workers, to maintain as much as a \$9-an-hour pay difference between people performing the same job.

Northwest is aiming to push the disparity in its negotiations with the pilots and flight attendants, some of whom were present at the rally.

"This is a basic issue of justice. All we are asking for is equal pay for equal work," said one ground service employee to the news media.

Northwest workers have organized rallies at the airport in the past. This was the first crack they took at putting together a public rally, however.

A number of other workers did attend. Passengers arriving at the terminal honked their horns. The rally paraded through the terminal in front of the Northwest ticket counter. A handful of passengers joined in singing "Solidarity Forever" along with the marchers.

Natasha Terlexis
Twin Cities, Minnesota

Why?

I know that your newspaper is in solidarity with the working class and is supportive of unions, but I don't understand why you don't carry the union label. Lots of unionized workers look for it when they buy something.

Also, I know that socialists and communists claim to be for the lib-

eration of women. But why is it that the heads of state of socialist and communist nations are all men, while England, Israel, India, and the Philippines have had or now have prime ministers or presidents who are women? Women are paid less than men, so they are potentially more revolutionary, especially Black, Chicana, Native American, Asian, and gay women.

I've even seen humankind referred to as "man" in the *Militant* once. I think the revolutionary movement should try to correct itself and combat sexism more.

Gary McIntire
St. Paris, Ohio

False democracy

I would like to know more about the progress of the working people. I am tired of this system, this false democracy.

A prisoner
Vienna, Illinois

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Pittsburgh march hits racist violence

Unionists, Blacks, antiwar groups demand prosecution of attackers

BY GREG JACKSON
AND BARRY SHEPPARD

PITTSBURGH — More than 500 people, Black and white, braved rain and threats to conduct a spirited march against racist violence through the mostly white Morningside neighborhood here on September 19.

The march was called to protest a vicious attack on a Black woman and her family and to assert the right of Blacks to go anywhere in Pittsburgh, including areas such as Morningside, which racists claim are "whites only" enclaves.

On August 16 Marilyn Jackson — a city bus driver — her daughter, and teenage friends were attacked by 15 stick-wielding whites just outside a store in Morningside. "I saw a bunch of white youths attacking the children," Jackson recounted. She ran outside carrying her nine-month-old nephew. One of the thugs swung an icepick at Jackson and the child. "Some of them had sticks, and one had a shovel," she said. "One said it was his nigger stick," she reported. Jackson was able to flee to her car. Her daughter and friends were beaten and robbed.

The Union Baptist Church, where the marchers assembled, had been spray painted with racist graffiti the previous night. The same night, local TV news featured interviews with thugs who claimed they would stop the march by force. However, a vigorous political campaign by march organizers, the Coalition Against Racist Violence, forced Mayor Richard Caliguiri and the city police to protect the march against any such assault.

"Fired up, can't take no more," "Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, have you heard? This is not Johannesburg!" and "Stop racist attacks," chanted the marchers.

The handful of thugs who turned out could only look glumly on as demonstrators marched by in well-organized ranks.

Some residents of Morningside came out to watch the march. There were few expressions of hostility. Some waved, giving "thumbs up" signs of support. Reporters who interviewed bystanders found a mixed response, ranging from racist anger to expressions of delight that the march had

come to Morningside.

An older Black woman came in spite of the fact that she had to be on oxygen. She wielded her oxygen bottle in front of her, connected by tubes, in defiant determination.

A white woman from another mostly white area came even though she had been frightened by the TV coverage of the racist threats. Bigots in her housing project have attempted to intimidate her because she has befriended Blacks who recently moved in.

Black fraternity members from the University of Pittsburgh came to protest the beating of one of their members. He was assaulted by a gang of whites who saw him with a woman whom the gang believed to be white.

On July 5 a Black family's home was stoned by a gang of racist youth in the Point Breeze section of the city. The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) attempted to get the mayor and other community groups to issue statements condemning the attack, but made little headway.

Irene Thomas, a spokesperson for the coalition and chairperson of the Pittsburgh CBTU, told the *Militant*, "When the Morningside attack happened, we had to act and not just issue statements."

Among the other endorsers of the march were: the Allegheny County Labor Council, AFL-CIO; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; American Federation of Government Employees; United Food and Commercial Workers Local 23; United Mine Workers of America Local 6986; Baptist Ministers Conference; Pittsburgh branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and various community and peace groups. Pennsylvania Gov. Robert Casey sent a message of support.

The rally also received a message from Richard Trindisti, president of Mine Workers Local 6986. The local has been on strike against Canterbury Coal Co. for more than two years.

Trindisti's message read, "Racist attacks like the one you are protesting today are attempting to do to Black people what was done to early immigrant coal miners here

Continued on Page 12



Militant/Michael Pennock

September 19 march of 500 to protest assault on Black family

New Caledonia: French gov't tries to bolster colonists

BY GEORGE FYSON

NOUMÉA, New Caledonia — The high stakes for Paris in the future of its South Pacific colonies were underlined by the September visit here of French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

Visiting New Caledonia just four days after a French-organized referendum on independence, Chirac was accompanied by his minister for overseas territories and departments, Bernard Pons. The central purpose of the visit to this colony was to encourage those who support the French government and oppose independence.

While the prime minister stayed less than 24 hours, he made a major policy speech to a crowd of some 20,000 flag-waving supporters in Nouméa. Chirac's arrival in a supersonic Concorde airplane was aimed at dazzling people here with the might of imperial France.

En route, Chirac's plane stopped at Hao atoll in French Polynesia, where the prime minister met with two French intelligence agents who had taken part in the 1985 bombing of the Greenpeace ship *Rainbow Warrior* in the harbor of Auckland, New Zealand.

The boat was sunk by the operatives before it was to depart on a protest against French nuclear bomb testing in the South Pacific. Chirac's visit to the two terrorists, who had been convicted in New Zealand but then released for a three-year detention by the French government, emphasized his intention to maintain a strong imperialist presence in the region.

Most of Chirac's brief time in New Caledonia was spent meeting with and congratulating officers of the 10,000-strong police and military force in the territory. There is one armed policeman or soldier for every five adult Kanaks, the native people of New Caledonia.

In his Nouméa speech, Chirac emphasized that New Caledonia would be French territory for the foreseeable future following the September 13 referendum in which 59 percent of those registered cast a vote for New Caledonia to "remain part of the French Republic." A considerable part of the territory's population are French

people on short or medium-term stays and who would return to France if their French citizenship was jeopardized by independence.

The indigenous Kanaks constitute 40 percent of the island's total population. Among those Kanaks registered to vote, 83 percent abstained in response to the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front's (FLNKS) boycott call.

Among non-Kanaks, abstention was 11 percent, while some 1.7 percent (842 voters) cast a vote for independence. The FLNKS says that decisions on the country's future should be made by Kanak and other long-term residents alone.

Chirac also presented proposals for new colonial structures to govern the territory. These include a statute of "autonomy" in local affairs — while defense, police, and other vital matters remain under the control of Paris — and a new regional division of the country.

Under the previous French government of Socialist Party Prime Minister Laurent Fabius, New Caledonia was divided into four regions, and elections for regional governments were held in 1985. The FLNKS won the majority in three out of the four. Chirac's new proposal would allow a probable FLNKS majority in two of the four regions.

As FLNKS President Jean-Marie Tjibaou commented after the speech, Chirac is here offering "the carrot and the stick." He said the FLNKS wanted nothing to do with Chirac's so-called autonomy and predicted a new round of mobilizations by Kanaks and their supporters, probably for the end of the year when the terms of the current regional government expire.

Chirac ended his speech by emphasizing the importance of the loyalist victory in this referendum for France's continuing presence in the South Pacific. New Caledonia and Tahiti, where another independence movement is rapidly growing, are by far France's most important Pacific positions. They are key to Paris' ability to maintain its worldwide naval presence and the nuclear weapons testing facility at Mururoa atoll in French Polynesia.

Anti-apartheid professor fired

BY CAPPY KIDD

NEW YORK — A committee is being formed to protest the firing of Prof. Fred Dube from his position at the State University of New York's Stony Brook campus. Dube, a leader of the African National Congress of South Africa, taught African studies and psychology.

The firing of Dube took effect at the end of August, stemming from a January 30 decision by the university to deny him tenure on frame-up charges of anti-Semitism. A four-year campaign targeting Dube has been waged by university authorities, Gov. Mario Cuomo, B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, and Jewish Defense Organization.

The witch-hunt began in 1983 when a visiting Israeli professor — who had never met Dube or attended a class he taught — charged that the ANC leader was anti-Semitic. The grounds were that a list of 12 possible topics for papers that he gave to students in his course on the "Politics of Race" included one on the relationship between Zionism and racism.

Statements in Dube's defense, including by five Jewish students who were in his class, were ignored. In denying tenure to Dube, State University of New York Chancellor Clifton Wharton rejected the recommendations of four faculty review committees.

An initial meeting of a committee to de-

fend Dube's rights was attended by members of the American Committee on Africa, Center for Constitutional Rights, Commission for Racial Justice, National Conference of Black Lawyers, National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, National Lawyers Guild, New Jewish Agenda, Socialist Workers Party, and Young Socialist Alliance.

The committee issued a statement on the case which concluded:

"Neither freedom of speech nor academic freedom are rights in South Africa. In the United States, freedom of speech is a constitutional right, a right once again under attack in many classrooms today. All too frequently, professors exercising this right have lost their jobs. A victory for Dr. Dube can be a turning point in discouraging ideological assaults against the freedom to teach and to learn in U.S. classrooms."

The Friends of Fred Dube are planning a broad outreach campaign to win support for his right to teach. For more information, write to National Conference of Black Lawyers/Dube, 126 W. 119 St., New York, N.Y. 10026.

Protests against Dube's firing can be sent to Jerome Komisar, acting chancellor, SUNY, State University Plaza, Albany, N.Y. 11246; and to Gov. Mario Cuomo, Executive Chamber, State Capitol, Albany, N.Y. 12224, with copies to Dube.